

Being On Guard

Text: Acts 20: 17-38

Intro

1. When read the Bible → obvious → Paul, the Apostle was ~~very~~ chosen to serve as Jew's expositor of his revelation in Jew's court.
2. Read book of Acts → content seemed known by Paul.
 - 1) Acts 13, 14, ⁺¹⁷ → 3 missionary sermons + ~~a~~ ~~first~~ ~~defense~~
 - 2) Acts chs. 22-26 → 5 defenses of the gospel.
 - 3) Each of these → speaking to non-churchians →
3. ~~In this public forum~~ → non-believers.
3. Come to Acts 20: 17-38 → speaking to churchians → Ephesian elders → moving scene → never see them again →
 - 1) Verse 22 → compelled by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem.
 - 2) 23 → warned by Spirit → face hardships/persec.
 - 3) 25 → None of the persons to whom preached the Gospel → ever see him again.
 - 4) 36 → Pray together
 - 5) 37 → Weep, embrace + say goodbye.

4. Many ways → most ways, however, we need about.

5. Natural Paul would leave a final message → summed up in 1 Th 5:1 → "So be on your guard! Remember that for these years I never stopped warning each of you night & day with tears."

6. Of all the truths God gave to Paul → one theme may be most important for our time → Be on your guard.

7. Another word → used in the Bible → watch.

1) Men → be alert → pay attention → give heed → concentrate → be on your guard

2) Message of:

(1) Matt. 25:13 → Therefore, keep watch → because you do not know the day or the hour when the Son of Man comes.

(2) Matt. 26:41 → Watch & pray so you will not fall into temptation → The spirit is willing but the body (flesh) is weak.

(3) 1 Cor. 16:13 → Be on your guard → stand firm in the faith → be men of courage → be strong → 14 → Do everything in love.

(4) 1 Pet. 5: 8, 9 → Be self controlled + alert → your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

(9) → Resist him → standing firm in the faith → because you know that your brothers throughout the world are going through the same kind of sufferings.

(5) Rev. 16: 15 → Behold, I come like a thief → Blessed is he who stays awake + keeps his clothes, so that he may not go naked + be shamefully exposed.

8. If Paul here → merge → be on guard.

1) When:

(1) Satan tempts → Be on guard.

(2) 1 Cor. → fires ^{minutes} ~~minutes~~ →

(3) Wrote against paganism / power →

(4) Wrote " rules - / spiritual w. →

(5) Face neg encounters →

(6) Hit by depression →

(7) Tragedy strikes →

2) Keep up our guard → Know:

(1) 1 Jn. 4: 4 →

(2) James 4: 7 →

(3) Rev. 3: 5 →

(4) Rev. 3: 12 →

(5) Rom. 16: 20

9. Great → Haw?

- 1) Not by gas light → when we want it? → Ill: Man + you miss → forgot how odious.
- Ill 2) Air Bog story.

10. Paul has the message - To be on guard

Word mean
Trust
Responsibility
may

I. See the Spiritual Perspectives

- 1. Best by secularism → rob the spiritual dimension.
- 2. Ill: Man → found the value of the spirit (tel. call)
- 3. Paul overturns the perspectives
 - 1) Right perspective toward God → verse 19, - Humility
 - 2) " " " Chuch → " 20, → Emergent
 - 3) " " " unbelief → " 21, → Repetitious
 - 4) " " " Self → " 22 → faith
- 4. Ill: Carson → either way I win.

Ill: Girl in Calif. #
moms days #

II. Set Spiritual Priorities → What claims by Paul?

1. Paul 1. Cor → What claims my best?

2. Ill: Doctor → lost family.

3. Paul overturns priorities 1 Cor. 9 Rom 12: 9-16

Discern
Discriminate
Dedicate
Elevate

- 1) Key w/ key words - 28a | serve | over
- 2) Be shepherd - 28b → (Model/Goal/Manufacture)
- 3) Be on guard - 29-31 → (Ill: College football player)
- 4) Do not count → 32-35 → (Ill: Heaven)
- 5) P

(Over)

3. Paul outlines the priorities:

- 1) Rein → verse 28a → Keep Watch
 - (1) Self → 1 Cor. 9:1 → discipline
 - (2) Others → Rom. 12:9 →
- 2) Direct → 28b → Be shepherds.
 - (1) Models / Israel → Ps. 23
 - (2) Ill. Ho / The Shepherd
- 3) Discriminate - 29-31 → Be on guard.
 - (1) Contented? - Word / Control? → dictate behavior / Character? - intention
Consequences - loyalty situations (Acts families)
 - (2) Ill. College football player → Col. 3
- 4) Dedicate → 33-35 → Do not covet. - (Ill. Dev.com)
- 5) Devote → 32/36-38 → Prayer / fellowship / faith
 - (1) Is a process of devotional prayer.

4. ~~See process of~~

(2) Try Prayer Practices:

- ① Progenize → Talk personally to God
- ② Pretense → See through spiritual eye (Ill. devotion)
- ③ Actualize → Behave as though accomplished.

4. Ill. → Be On Guard → Mexico Trip →

devourment