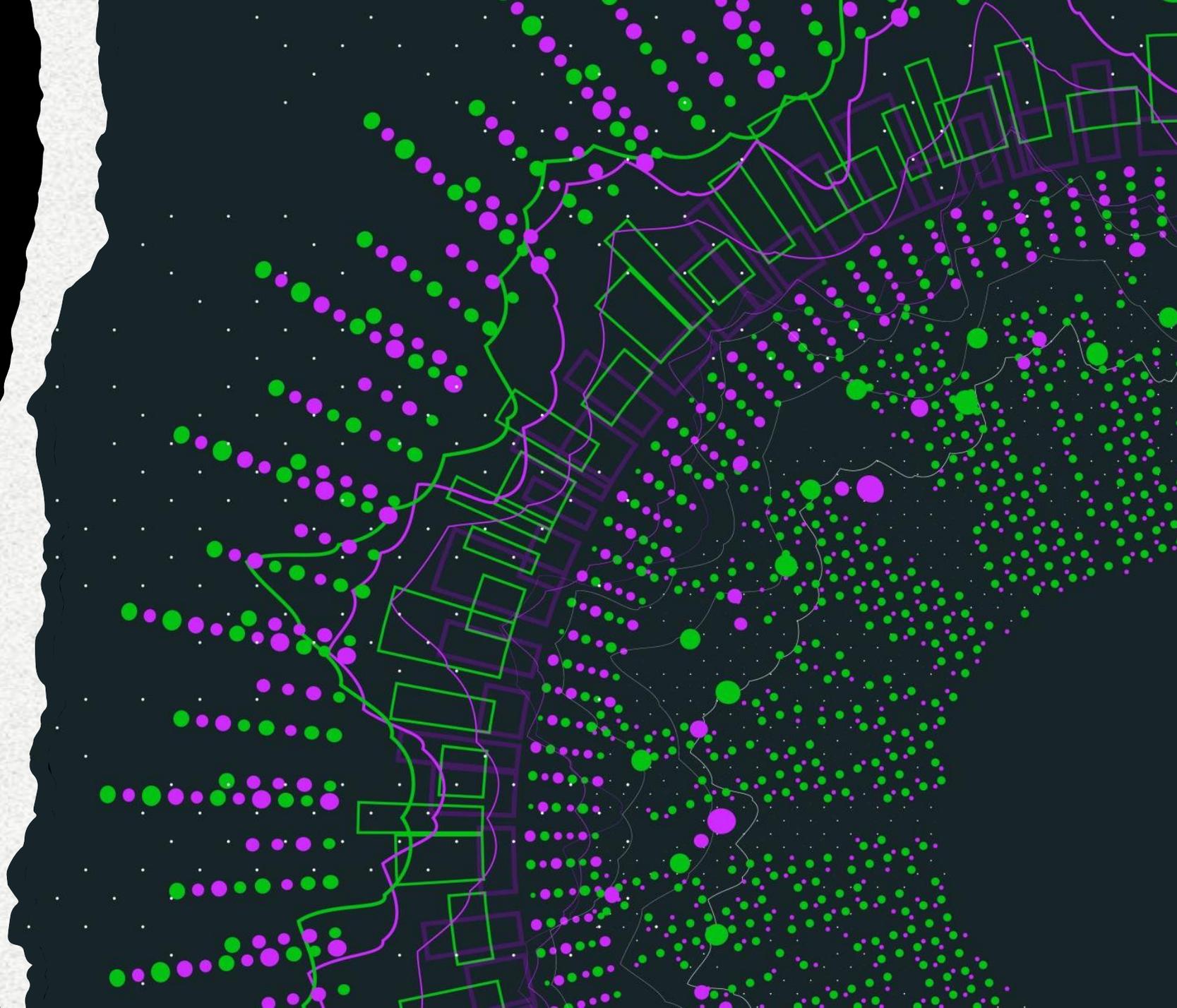
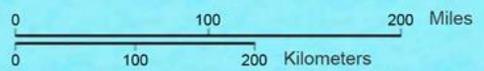


“Words Worth Heeding”

Acts 20:25-38





PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY
Acts 19:1 - 21:14

- City
- One of the "Seven Churches of Asia" - Rev. 2-3
- ← Paul's Route

ConformingToJesus.com

“Words Worth Heeding” - Acts 20:25-38

I. Strong Words – v.25-31

“Words Worth Heeding” - Acts 20:25-38

I. Strong Words – v.25-31

1. Of personal defense

“Words Worth Heeding” - Acts 20:25-38

I. Strong Words – v.25-31

1. Of personal defense
- 2 . Of warning

“Words Worth Heeding” - Acts 20:25-38

I. Strong Words – v.25-31

1. Of personal defense
- 2 . Of warning
3. Of imminent danger

“Words Worth Heeding” - Acts 20:25-38

I. Strong Words – v.25-31

1. Of personal defense
- 2 . Of warning
3. Of imminent danger

II. Comforting Words – v.32-35

“Words Worth Heeding” - Acts 20:25-38

I. Strong Words – v.25-31

1. Of personal defense
- 2 . Of warning
3. Of imminent danger

II. Comforting Words – v.32-35

1. That it is God we must rely upon

“Words Worth Heeding” - Acts 20:25-38

I. Strong Words – v.25-31

1. Of personal defense
2. Of warning
3. Of imminent danger

II. Comforting Words – v.32-35

1. That it is God we must rely upon
2. They are “His words of Grace”

“Words Worth Heeding” - Acts 20:25-38

I. Strong Words – v.25-31

1. Of personal defense
2. Of warning
3. Of imminent danger

II. Comforting Words – v.32-35

1. That it is God we must rely upon
2. They are “His words of Grace”

III. Final Words – v.36-38

“Words Worth Heeding” - Acts 20:25-38

I. Strong Words – v.25-31

1. Of personal defense
2. Of warning
3. Of imminent danger

II. Comforting Words – v.32-35

1. That it is God we must rely upon
2. They are “His words of Grace”

III. Final Words – v.36-38

1. Of prayer

“Words Worth Heeding” - Acts 20:25-38

I. Strong Words – v.25-31

1. Of personal defense
2. Of warning
3. Of imminent danger

II. Comforting Words – v.32-35

1. That it is God we must rely upon
2. They are “His words of Grace”

III. Final Words – v.36-38

1. Of prayer
2. Of displays of love

Words Worth Heeding

Acts 20:25-38, Sunday AM, November 6, 2022

Prelude – Scripture: Acts 20:17-38 ¹⁷ From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. ¹⁸ And when they had come to him, he said to them, “You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²² And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. ²⁴ “But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵ “And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. ²⁶ “Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. ²⁷ “For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. ²⁸ “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ “I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ “Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. ³² “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ “I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothes. ³⁴ “You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. ³⁵ “In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” ³⁶ When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷ And they began to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him, ³⁸ grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they were accompanying him to the ship.

We continue traveling—cities behind us, ADVERSARIES behind us, but also dearly loved brethren behind us, and now, we are heading to Jerusalem. But more stops—the group went by boat, meeting Paul at Assos, where they all continued by boat to Mitylene, then near Chios, then Samos, then Miletus where Paul called for the elders from Ephesus. What a privilege and inspiration to hear Paul’s heart and charge to the elders as he sought to fulfill his God-given mission to them—“to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.” Paul was SO focused and dedicated to this mission that he “did not consider [his] life of any account as dear to [himself], so that [he] may finish [his] course and the ministry which [he] received from the Lord Jesus.” Pastor Jahn unpacked the character displayed disseminating that mission showing Paul’s transparency, humility, tender heart, and perseverance. It is worthy of our respect, but it is also within our reach and responsibility as it came from life from God creating both orthodoxy and zeal. Church, praise God whose holy greatness reaches down to include us and calls those who trust Him first to Himself and then to proclaim His greatness!

*Hymn (Powerpoint): How Great (Ps. 145)

Today, Paul somberly continues, “And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. “Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. It’s so final. He’s finished. Done. With what? With giving them the whole purpose of God. Can you succinctly outline your God-given mission? You’d better consider it, so you know what you should be doing as well as what it looks like to finish it. What does it look like for you to live testifying of the gospel of the grace of God? For Paul, he was helping the shepherds of the church of Ephesus shepherd, and he does so by warning them of those who would do damage to the people of God—wolves that would come in among them and not spare the flock, drawing people to follow their dangerous teaching. What should they do? Be alert and follow Paul’s example of night and day for a period of three years admonishing each one with tears. But would that be enough to protect them? Paul commended them to God and to the word of His grace which would build them up and give them an eternal inheritance. Once again, we must all look to the Chief Shepherd and follow His example in our care for souls.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Love Incarnate

*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn **Choir:** Grieve Not the Holy Spirit of God

Scripture: Ephesians 4:17–32 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; ¹⁹ and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. ²⁰ But you did not learn Christ in this way, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, ²² that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³ and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. ²⁵ Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE OF YOU WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ BE ANGRY, AND YET DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not give the devil an opportunity. ²⁸ He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. ²⁹ Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Offering: *Doxology: Would you be led astray by these dangerous teachings? Did the “wolves” intend to be wolves, or were they just looking for truth and using their gift of teaching? But don’t just blame them. If you were looking to Christ, you wouldn’t be deceived as easily because our passage from Ephesians reminded us that truth is in Jesus. Any desires you have that don’t find their fulfillment in Christ leave you open to teaching that promises you your desires AND fellowship with God. Watch out—the way of “the Gentiles” is rooted deep inside you leading to being calloused—a hardness of heart. Don’t grieve the Holy Spirit of God whereby ye were sealed unto the day of redemption. Instead, yield to the Spirit of God and you will show the love of the Father to the brotherhood as well as before the world. Pray this prayer as you feel the weight of your wandering heart and our tendency together to misrepresent Christ by not caring for each other’s souls.

*Hymn #249: Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Have you, by the work of the Spirit of God, experienced the joy of receiving the gift of reconciliation to God by faith in the work of Christ? For those who have, the love of God poured out in your heart causes you to love the rest of those born again. Paul finishes his solemn charge by kneeling with them in prayer and following their time before the Father, they wept aloud and embraced Paul recognizing they would not see him again down here. The love expressed in this relationship must be cultivated, but it is cultivated vertically before it is cemented horizontally. Blest be the tie that binds. Once again, sing the familiar and learn the new verses as we prepare for the message—add 3rd, then 5-6.

*Hymn #286 (Powerpoint): Blest Be the Tie

Message: Words Worth Heeding Acts 20:25-38

***Hymn #269: O Word of God Incarnate**

Prayer