

February 25, 2024
Acts 20:16-27 “Value/Purpose”

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

“If the apostle Paul were alive, he would be the most sought after and mimicked church growth expert of them all. After all, it was largely through his ministry that Christianity grew from a small Palestinian sect to an empire-wide phenomenon. Trying to copy the apostle’s style would be wrongheaded, however, for Paul’s success was not based on his ministry methodology. The apostle’s successful ministry flowed from his devotion to truth, spiritual character, commitment to serving God, and the resultant powerful example his life set for others. There was no credibility gap between the truth he proclaimed and the way he lived.” *John MacArthur* Go in God’s strength.

“Some judge the success of a servant of God by how large or widespread his ministry is, how many degrees he has, or how much publicity he receives. But the true measure of a servant of God is whether he focuses solely on pleasing God, which gives him the willingness to serve with humility and suffer opposition from those hostile to the truth.” *John MacArthur* Mom, dad, student, worker, elderly finish your course well for the Lord.

Paul did not shrink back from telling the truths of God’s Word. Some do. Don’t want to offend, lose favor with the church bosses, be accused of being politically incorrect etc.

Application:

Paul had struggles in Asia/Ephesus, **I Corinthians 15:30-32**, “Why are we in danger every hour: I face death every day, as surely as I may boast about you, brothers and sisters, in Christ Jesus our Lord. If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus as a mere man, what good did that do me? If the dead are not raised, **Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.**” **I Corinthians 16:8-6**, “But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, because a wide door for effective ministry has opened for me—yet many oppose me.” **II Corinthians 1:8-11**, “We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, of our affliction that took place in Asia. We were completely overwhelmed—beyond our strength—so that we even despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death, so that we would not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a terrible death, and he will deliver us. We have put our hope in him that he will deliver us again while you join in helping us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gift that came to us though the prayers of many.” If you haven’t already, determine His purpose for your life, live it out wholeheartedly. Each calling is different, each calling valuable to God. Very importantly, finish your course well beloved.