

# We Will Not Shrink

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Acts 20:17-38

*This sermon was preached at Horizon Church on Sunday morning, January 14, 2022*

# SCRIPTURE TEXT

*Acts 20:17–38 Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. <sup>18</sup> And when they came to him, he said to them: “You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, <sup>19</sup> serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; <sup>20</sup> how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. <sup>24</sup> But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. <sup>25</sup> And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, <sup>27</sup> for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. <sup>28</sup> Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; <sup>30</sup> and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. <sup>31</sup> Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. <sup>34</sup> You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. <sup>35</sup> In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ” <sup>36</sup> And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. <sup>37</sup> And there was much weeping on*

## Acts 20:17-38

Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. And when they came to him, he said to them: “You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

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I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ” And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

*the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, <sup>38</sup> being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.*

## I. PAUL'S INVITATION

### I. Paul's Invitation

Paul had been on his third missionary journey.

On that tour, he revisited the major cities of Turkey and Greece.<sup>1</sup>

He was greatly used by the Holy Spirit.

He was also greatly abused by Jewish and Gentile opponents.

At some point, the Holy Spirit impressed upon him that he was to collect an offering and deliver it to the saints in Jerusalem.<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, Paul visited a few more cities – worshiping, fellowshiping, healing, preaching, teaching, writing, and collecting funds.

Paul then boarded a ship on his final trek to the Holy City.

However, his ship was not one taking a straight course to Jerusalem. It was a merchant ship making many stops along the way.

One of those stops was Miletus.

At Miletus, Paul learned the vessel would not take off to sea for several days.

At Miletus, Paul reasoned it would great to fellowship with the elders he dearly loved. They were about a day's journey away.<sup>3</sup>

At Miletus, Paul also sensed this would be his last opportunity to see these fellows face to face.

Paul took advantage of the opportunity.

He sent someone to Ephesus inviting the plural elders of the singular church to come and meet with him in Miletus.<sup>4</sup>

This would be his last session meeting with these men.

## II. PAUL'S LEGACY

The Apostle was greatly honored by these men.

They made the effort and would be forever be grateful they did.

Paul began to address these brothers.<sup>5</sup>

### II. Paul's Legacy

- Reputation
- Position
- Compassion
- Trials
- Method
- Passion
- Peace

### A. HIS REPUTATION

He started by alluding to their intimate knowledge of him.<sup>6</sup>

For 3 years, he had ministered and lived amongst them.<sup>7</sup>

He was one of them.

They knew his strengths and weaknesses.

They knew him inside and out.

His life had been an open book before them.

Consequently, If he pretended to be something he had not been, they could call his bluff.

### B. HIS POSITION

He pointed out he had been a humble slave of the Lord.<sup>8</sup>

That meant, he was one who practiced humility like his Hero.

He was fruited with meekness.

He had learned to pick up the towel.

He learned to esteem others better than himself.

He learned to look out not only after his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

That also meant he was one who had been humbled like his Hero.

He found himself not highly esteemed by rulers, governors, business leaders, or Jewish churchmen.

He was persistently mocked by Greeks and abhorred by Jews.

For him, being the Lord's slave had not been the path to earthly exaltation.

Instead, it had been somewhat humiliating.

## C. HIS COMPASSION

He then commented on his tears.

He mentioned this again in Acts 20:31.

His weepiness remained a constant theme throughout his writings.<sup>9</sup>

Paul was **not a dispassionate servant**, but one who was torn-up about the condition of his friends and neighbors.

Like Jesus, when approaching Jerusalem and considering its condition, Paul had love and it leaked.

## D. HIS TRIALS

Paul also commented on his trials.

For the most part, it had been his own Jewish brothers who were the most hostile, but they are not the only ones.<sup>10</sup>

But all this did not turn Paul back from his primary calling. He was a servant of the Lord. And how did he serve?

## E. HIS METHOD

Paul did not shrink from preaching everywhere.

As has been seen, he preached in public synagogues, theaters, marketplaces, courts, and palaces.<sup>11</sup>

He also preached in many private houses.<sup>12</sup>

He also preached in prisons, beside rivers; he will soon preach on a sinking ship.

Paul did not shrink from preaching to everyone.

He communicated to Jews and Greeks.

He ministered to men and women – no group was left out.

Paul did not shrink from preaching everything.

He preached "all that was profitable." (vs. 20)

He preached "repentance towards God." (vs. 21)

He preached "faith in the Lord Jesus Christ." (vs. 21)

He preached "the kingdom." (vs. 25)

He preached "the Gospel of the grace of God." (vs. 24)

He preached the "whole counsel" of God's Word. (vs. 27)

He was not selective.

He was not sensitive.

He was not scared.

He was not silenced.

Paul encouraged and admonished. He cheered and called out. In obedience to Christ, he taught all Christ had commanded.

## HIS PASSION

Paul had revelation – the Spirit had promised him troubles, trials, suffering, imprisonments, afflictions in every city.<sup>13</sup>

Paul was not fully aware of all that would happen to him in Jerusalem, but he had expectations. It was not going to go well.<sup>14</sup>

As mentioned earlier, Paul had some awareness he would not meet with these beloved elders again.<sup>15</sup>

Paul had grit and determination.

He was going to finish the course and ministry he received from his Lord, Master, and Commander.

Self-preservation was not precious to him; it was not high on his priority list.

Paul was “constrained by the Spirit.”<sup>16</sup> There may be a wordplay here. Paul was “bound” to go to Jerusalem to be bound.<sup>17</sup>

*Illustration from R. Kent Hughes, “This same commitment was beautifully evident in the life of James Calvert, a young pioneer missionary to the cannibals of the Fiji Islands. In route the ship captain, a humane man, tried to dissuade him, finally crying in desperation, ‘You will lose your life and the lives of those with you if you go among such savages.’ Calvert calmly replied, ‘we died before we came.’”<sup>18</sup>*

*Illustration: Friend who is in Seal training at Coronado Island.*

## HIS PEACE

Again, Paul had not shrunk from declaring the “whole counsel” of God.

He had faithfully communicated God’s truths regardless of popularity, pressure, or pain.

He did not compromise.

He did not quit.

His conscience was clean. He was innocent of the blood of all.<sup>19</sup>

Why was Paul rehearsing his ministry?

Why had he called this session meeting?

What was he hoping to accomplish?



### III. PAUL'S CHARGE

#### III. Paul's Charge

#### PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO SELF

Paul admonished these elders to pay careful attention to their own worship.<sup>20</sup>

- Pay Careful Attention to Self
- Pay Careful Attention to His Sheep
- Place Confidence in God and His Word
- Work Hard and Give

#### PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO HIS SHEEP

Paul exhorted these men to see themselves as elders.

He exhorted these men to see themselves as shepherds. This is implied by the usage of flock.<sup>21</sup>

They were to see themselves as divinely called overseers.<sup>22</sup>

They were made such by the Holy Spirit.

They were elders, shepherds, and overseers – not of their own flock, but of Jesus Christ.

This was the group God so loved. This was the group Jesus obtained with his own blood.<sup>23</sup>

Their church belonged to the Lord Jesus and not them.

These elders, shepherds, and overseers were to see the real and present danger.

There was individual danger. Satan was relentless in his passion to teach, turn, and trouble.

There was communal danger.

Oft times this was unintentional.

Sadly, it was sometimes intentional as men would twist God's truths to gain a following.

Regardless, fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters could harm one another through false teaching.

Then there was community danger.

Fierce wolves from the outside would seek to devour the flock.<sup>24</sup>

Therefore, they were to pay careful attention to the flock.

They were to be alert – vigilant shepherds.<sup>25</sup>

They were to know their people.

They were to guard that which was being taught.

They were to positively teach truth.

They were to negatively highlight error.

They were to pay careful attention to all the flock. No one was insignificant.



Paul pointed to his reputation; he did not shrink from teaching and protecting every day, morning and evening, for three years.<sup>26</sup>

Again, they were to follow Paul as he followed Christ.

## PLACE ALL CONFIDENCE IN GOD AND HIS WORD

Paul placed no confidence in Peter, Apollos, or himself.

Paul placed no confidence in these elders, shepherds, or overseers.

He placed all his confidence in God and God's Word to build up. By this, he referred to progressive sanctification.

He placed all his confidence in God and God's Word to preserve – to give the glorious inheritance to all who are saints.

If these fellows were wise, they would place all their confidence in God and his Word.

## WORK HARD AND GIVE

Paul did not minister in order to obtain wealth.

Paul did not minister in order to make a living.

Paul passed on the opportunity to have men and women support him. He paid his own way in ministry.<sup>27</sup>

More than that, Paul even worked hard enough to contribute to the necessities of others ministering alongside him.

Paul enjoyed living out the doctrine of Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."<sup>28</sup>

His ministry was characterized by giving, not by getting.

## IV. PAUL'S FAREWELL

### IV. Paul's Farewell

Paul and the elders spent some sweet time in prayer.

He had confidence in God and this was proven by his prayer meetings.

Paul and the elders fell to pieces.

They loved each other so, and sensing this would be their last get-together, they were all overcome with affection.

There was much sorrow, weeping, embracing, kissing, expressed on the part of all.

And with that, they escorted Paul back to his ship.

# SERMON APPLICATION

## A. CAN WE SEE THE HATRED OF SATAN?

Satan abhors God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Satan abhors all men created in the image and likeness of God.

Satan abhors all men recreated in the image and likeness of Jesus Christ.

Satan is a false teacher talking to us and our children.

Satan is a false teacher coming at us through the education system.

Satan is a false teacher coming at us through the media.

Satan is a false teacher coming at us through the entertainment.

Satan is a false teacher coming at us through the government.

Satan is a false teacher coming at us through neighbors – peer pressure.

Satan is a false teacher coming at us through religion.

Satan is a false teacher coming at us through the church. He encourages people to twist or pervert the scriptures.

Satan is a dark angel dressed in the costume of an angel of light.

Satan is a serpent seeking to tempt.

Satan is a lion seeking to devour.

Satan is a wolf seeking to devour.

Our Response?	

Our Response?	See the hatred of Satan?

## B. CAN WE SEE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST IN HIS GOSPEL?

Jesus knows well the intent of Lucifer.

Jesus watches his work.

Jesus sees our folly.

Jesus sees our depravity.

Jesus sees our suffering.

Jesus humbles and spends himself. He purchases his church with his own blood.

Jesus sends his Spirit to sweetly draw us to him.

Jesus makes us saints.

Our Response?	See the hatred of Satan?
	See Jesus' love through his Gospel?

Jesus loses not a one of us. He finishes the deal.

## C. CAN WE SEE THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST IN HIS CHURCH?

Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

Jesus invents the church.

Jesus is Lord of the church.

Jesus organizes his church.

Jesus, by means of the Holy Spirit, calls a group of elders, shepherds, or overseers to slave in his church.

Jesus, by means of the Holy Spirit, calls a group of elders, shepherds, or overseers, who are apt to teach, to slave in his church.

Jesus, by means of the Holy Spirit, by means of the Word, regenerates.

Jesus, by means of the Holy Spirit, by means of the Word, washes.

Jesus, by means of the Holy Spirit, by means of the Word, feeds or disciples.

Jesus, by means of the Holy Spirit, by means of the Word, guides.

Jesus, by means of the Holy Spirit, by means of the Word, corrects or disciplines.

Jesus, by means of the Holy Spirit, by means of the Word, preserves.

Our Response?	See the hatred of Satan?
	See Jesus' love through his Gospel?
	See Jesus' love through his church?

## D. LET US NOT SHRINK FROM SERVING AS ELDERS, SHEPHERDS, OR OVERSEERS.

Let's keep a careful watch on ourselves.

Let's be known.

Let's model well.

Let's see ourselves as humble slaves.

Let's pray for more and more tearful compassion.

Let's expect trials.

Let's go! Sacrifice to the end.

Let's focus on teaching, preaching, and counseling everywhere, everyone, everything.

Let's keep a careful watch on all Christ's flock.

Let's be vigilant and call out error.

Let's place no confidence in ourselves – pray, pray, preach, preach.

Let's sweat.

Our Response?	See the hatred of Satan?
	See Jesus' love through his Gospel?
	See Jesus' love through his church?
	Let us not shrink as elders.

Let's give.

Let's enjoy embracing one another.

Let's enjoy rejoicing in what God does through us.

## E. LET US NOT SHRINK FROM BEING GRACED AS DISCIPLES

Let's never confuse elders with the Elder – Jesus Christ

Let's submit to the Elder – Jesus Christ

Let's choose our elders and our family; no more disconnection.

Let's place ourselves under the counseling, teaching, and preaching of elders.

Let's value deacons, staff, and lay leaders.

Let's enjoy the benefits of what God does through these weak men: regeneration, washing, feeding, guiding, correcting, preserving.

Let's pray for our elders

Our Response?	See the hatred of Satan?
	See Jesus' love through his Gospel?
	See Jesus' love through his church?
	Let us not shrink as elders.
	Let us not shrink as disciples.

# We Will Not Shrink

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Acts 20:17-38





## OTHER SUPPORTING PASSAGES

Ezekiel 34

John 10

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

1 Peter 5

## POSSIBLE BENEDICTIONS

Jude 1:24-25 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:1–11 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: <sup>2</sup> shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. <sup>5</sup> Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” <sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup> casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> Map of Paul's Third Missionary Journey



<sup>2</sup> Acts 19:21-22

<sup>3</sup> John Stott, page 323 30 miles as the crow flies ... a very circuitous route ... probably at least a day's journey in one direction Simon Kistemaker, page 724 ... two day route

<sup>4</sup> Elder in the New Testament Church

Acts 11:30 And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 14:23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Acts 15:2 And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.

Acts 15:4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them.

Acts 15:6 The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter.

Acts 15:22-23 Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers, with the following letter: "The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the brothers who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings.

Acts 16:4 As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem.

Acts 20:17 Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him.

Acts 21:18 On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.

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1 Tim 4:14 Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.

1 Tim 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

1 Tim 5:19 Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

Titus 1:5 This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—

James 5:14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

1 Pet 5:1 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed:

1 Pet 5:5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

2 John 1 The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth,

3 John 1 The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth.

<sup>5</sup> John Stott, page 323 F.F. Bruce, page 387 Interesting note: In Acts, Luke only recorded one address from Paul to a believing audience – this address.

<sup>6</sup> 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

<sup>7</sup> Acts 20:31

<sup>8</sup> Douleuo – the slave of a master Romans 1:1; Romans 12:11; Galatians 1:10; Philippians 1:1

<sup>9</sup> Romans 9:2; 2 Corinthians 2:4; Philippians 3:18

<sup>10</sup> 2 Corinthians 11:23–28 Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. <sup>24</sup> Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; <sup>26</sup> on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; <sup>27</sup> in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. <sup>28</sup> And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.

<sup>11</sup> In Ephesus, he preached in the synagogue and in the Hall of Tyrannus.

<sup>12</sup> Romans 16:5; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:2

<sup>13</sup> Acts 9:16

<sup>14</sup> Romans 15:30-32

<sup>15</sup> He did seem to go back to Ephesus in 1 Timothy 1:3. Five possible ramifications are presented by Simon Kistemaker, pages 730-731.

<sup>16</sup> Acts 16:6; 19:21

<sup>17</sup> Wordplay here? He has been told he will be bound and now he is bound to go? William J. Larken, Jr., page 295. Desma

<sup>18</sup> R. Kent Hughes, page 278

<sup>19</sup> Ezekiel 33:1-9 The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup> “Son of man, speak to your people and say to them, If I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from among them, and make him their watchman, <sup>3</sup> and if he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the trumpet and warns the people, <sup>4</sup> then if anyone who hears the sound of the trumpet does not take warning, and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. <sup>5</sup> He heard the sound of the trumpet and did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But if he had taken warning, he would have saved his life. <sup>6</sup> But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any one of them, that person is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand. <sup>7</sup> “So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup> If I say to the

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wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup> But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

<sup>20</sup> 1 Timothy 4:16

<sup>21</sup> John 21:15-17; Ephesians 4:11

<sup>22</sup> Episkopos = Guardians, Bishops (Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7)

<sup>23</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:20; 1 Corinthians 7:23; Psalm 74:2; Revelation 5:9

<sup>24</sup> False prophets did indeed seek to harm Ephesus: 1 Timothy; 2 Timothy; Revelation 2

<sup>25</sup> Remember Jesus' parable of good shepherds

<sup>26</sup> Perhaps this is referring to Paul's practice of teaching in the morning, working during the day, and teaching again in the evenings.

<sup>27</sup> 1 Corinthians 4:12; 1 Corinthians 9:3–15; 2 Corinthians 4:5; 2 Corinthians 11:7–11; 2 Corinthians 12:13; 1 Thessalonians 2:3–12; 2 Thessalonians 3:7–10

<sup>28</sup> Homer A. Kent, Jr., page, 158, "This saying is one of the *agrapha*, a term used to describe sayings of Jesus which are not recorded in the four Gospels. That there were many such can hardly be doubted. (John 21:25)" For similar statements and teachings by Jesus, look at the F.F. Bruce Commentary, page 395, footnote 80.