

Above All Else

Acts 20:17-38

What is truly most _____?

How should that affect _____?

Acts 20:17-38

17: Paul's last time to see _____ & _____ in Ephesus

He had spent about 3 years _____ and _____
for the people of Ephesus

This was his last time to see the leaders. What did he say?

18-21: His _____: his life with them as a model life

Serving _____ in humility, compassion & endurance

Teaching _____ and _____ without hesitation

Jews and Greeks as _____ church

All must _____ to God and have _____ in Jesus

Not family _____, not _____ activity,
not merely ideas, not superficial change

22-24: His _____: God's purpose for him was above all else

Trouble ahead in Jerusalem

Jews (Christians and non-Christians) were offended by Paul's
message and example: _____ Jews & Gentiles

His only aim: complete the work given by _____

Make known the good news of God's grace
to all _____ together

25-27: His lasting _____: Proclaim God's Gospel

Consciously making his last statement

Watchman who doesn't _____ people is responsible for the loss of
those people

Must tell "The _____ will of God"

Jew and Gentile in _____ church together

By _____ alone, not by any religious actions

Expressed in _____ to God

28-31: His command: _____ the church above all else

"_____ made you overseers"

It is "the church of _____"

It was bought by the blood of His only Son, _____

Dangers from the _____ and dangers from _____

Guard it _____, night and day

32-35: For the _____: trust in God and the Gospel

Gospel: build you up & give you true _____

Do not "_____" the church to meet your needs

_____ brings God's blessing, rather than _____

True for _____. True for every _____ in the church

36-38: They closed in prayer and _____

Rich fellowship in grief and _____ before God

The Big Idea:

The church (and _____ church)

is _____ to God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

_____ by God

_____ by Jesus' death

_____ by shepherds made & appointed by the Holy Spirit

Application

Value the church as God values the church: _____

Not the building, and not merely individuals,

but the _____ & _____ of God's children

Zechariah 2:8-9; 1 Timothy 1:12-15; Acts 9:1-5

To attack or harm the church & its people is to attack _____

The _____ community

When 1 part suffers, we all _____

_____ breaks God's heart

It isn't "mine" or even "ours". It is God's

For example: We must see problems with _____

See the high _____ of our connection with the church

Board members/elders

Appointed & made by the _____ to oversee the church
that was purchased by Jesus' death

Ministry team leaders and "_____ " and caring for others

Entrusted with the work of _____ among His people

Every _____

A defender and promoter of God's people

There are no godly _____ Christians

Reflection

- How would you describe God's heart for His church?
- Sometimes the church has harmed people. Given Paul's vision of God's relationship with the church, how should we respond to that?
- Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." In what ways are you giving to the church? How has God blessed you in that giving? Are there other ways that you could be giving to the church while trusting in God's blessing for your gifts and service?