



## Live with Purpose

By Jeff Bedwell on June 23, 2022

### TODAY'S READING: Acts 20

Chapter 20 marks a transition point in Paul's life and ministry. Up to this point, Paul has been engaged primarily in pioneer work taking the gospel where it has not been proclaimed. He has been going into new areas and has founded churches. In Acts 20, by contrast, he is visiting for the last time churches he has already founded, giving them final teaching and encouragement.

In seeking to encourage the churches, Paul gives us a glimpse of how he sought to live his life with purpose. He gives us five pictures or pursuits of a follower of Jesus Christ who is seeking to live their life with intentionality and a purpose that will matter for all eternity. His five pictures are:

- A runner in a race (vs. 24). We are to finish our race or course with joy. We are to run to win against the competitors of the world, the flesh and the devil.
- A steward or servant (vs. 24). We are to live our life to please and serve our master. To fulfill His calling and purposes for our lives.
- We are witnesses (vs. 24). A witness testifies to what they have seen and experienced. We are to tell others about the grace of God that has changed our lives through the gospel.
- We are heralds (vs. 25). We have been commissioned with a message. A witness describes what has happened to them, but a herald tells what the King has told them to declare.
- We are Watchman (vv. 26-27). This imagery comes from Ezekiel 3:17: *"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me."* We are called to pass along the message of warning lovingly, clearly, compassionately, and truthfully to others.

Paul understands, this is eternal life and death. If I know the truth of the gospel and I meet somebody that does not know it, I have a responsibility as a herald, as a witness, as a watchman, to share it. If I know a believer that is going astray, or they are doing things that are contrary to what the Bible teaches, I have a responsibility as a herald, as a witness, as a watchman, to warn them of what could potentially happen. I do not do this because I hate them. I do it because I love them. Because I want to help them. I want to protect them.

Spend some time reflecting on these five pictures and pursuits. How evident are they in your life? What adjustments might the Lord Jesus Christ be calling you to make to live your one and only life with more intentionality and eternal purpose?

**PRAYER:** Father, I have "Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last." Help me live my one and only life in a way that will matter for all eternity!

**TOMORROW'S READING: Acts 21**

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