



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of April 19, 2026

Acts 20:13-27

[13] But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land. [14] And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene. [15] And sailing from there we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we went to Miletus. [16] For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. [17] Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. [18] 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, [19] serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; [20] how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, [21] testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. [22] And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, [23] except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. [24] 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. [25] And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. [26] Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, [27] for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

1. What do you think motivated Paul to be so quick to obey God even though he knew it meant suffering? How is your obedience to the Lord in comparison? Do you suffer from “delayed obedience”? How is this the same as disobedience?
2. In spite of Paul’s numerous ministry accomplishments, he was characterized by humility. Why do you think Paul consistently called himself a “bondservant” of Christ and what do you think he meant by that? Why is humility so necessary in ministry?
3. Paul did not shrink from preaching anything profitable including the hard truth about sin and repentance. Why is it necessary for a preacher to give people what they *need* to hear instead of what they *want* to hear? In light of this, why is it absolutely necessary for the preacher to study and accurately handle the word of truth?
4. Paul preached repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus. Why are repentance and faith like two sides of the same coin? Can you have true Christian repentance without faith, and vice versa?
5. Common benchmarks in life are graduation, marriage, children, buying a home, and retirement. For Paul, his benchmarks were staying in the fight, keeping the faith, enduring affliction, and finishing the race. Should believers in Christ view their lives more like Paul? If so, why and how can we do this?
6. In Ezekiel 33:7-9, God speaks of the watchman’s responsibility to warn sinful man to obey the word of God. Explain how Paul was like a watchman. How did this responsibility keep Paul:
 - humble?
 - from shrinking from preaching repentance?
 - focused on eternal “benchmarks” rather than temporal ones?