

Centered: Gospel Mission Through Children's Ministry
Acts 20:17-32
October 24, 2021

Main Point: *God has called us to be devoted to transferring the whole counsel of God to the next generation so that they will be devoted to transferring the whole counsel of God to the generation after them.*

I) The Whole Counsel of God Taught as the Priority – Acts 20: 20-21, 26-27

- *When Paul attests that this is what he proclaimed to the believers in Ephesus, the Ephesian elders to whom he makes this bold declaration know full well that he had managed this remarkable feat in only two and a half years. In other words, whatever else Paul did, he certainly did not manage to go through every verse of the Old Testament, line by line, with full-bore explanation. He simply did not have time. What he must mean is that he taught the burden of the whole of God's revelation, the balance of things, leaving nothing out that was of primary importance, never ducking the hard bits, helping believers to grasp the whole counsel of God that they themselves would become better equipped to read their Bibles intelligently, comprehensively. It embraced:*
 - *God's purposes in the history of redemption (truths to be believed and a God to be worshiped)*
 - *an unpacking of human origin (creation), fall, redemption, and destiny (restoration). A worldview that shapes all human understanding and a Savior without whom there is no hope*
 - *the conduct expected of God's people (commandments to be obeyed and wisdom to be pursued, both in our individual existence and in the community of the people of God), and*
 - *the pledges of transforming power both in this life and in the life to come (promises to be trusted and hope to be anticipated)*
 - *D. A. Carson, "Challenges for the Twenty-first-century Pulpit," in Preach the Word: Essays on Expository Preaching: In Honor of R. Kent Hughes*

II) The Whole Counsel of God Taught Personally – Acts 20:18-21

III) The Whole Counsel of God Taught Urgently – Acts 20:22-31

IV) The Whole Counsel of God Taught Confidently – Acts 20:32