

sermon notes

December 21, 2025 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church
No Other Name | "Paul's Farewell Address in Miletus (Part 1)" | **Acts 20:17–24**

Three things you want to be able to say at the end of your life:

1) "I served the Lord with _____ and

_____ (Acts 20:17–19)

2) "I didn't hesitate to _____ of my

_____ (Acts 20:20–21)

3) "I valued the Lord and his gospel as more _____

than _____" (Acts 20:22–24)

Questions for Further Application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Acts 20:17–24. Why did Paul meet only with the Ephesian elders on his journey to Jerusalem? What kind of relationship did Paul have with these elders? What does he expect of them when they return to Ephesus?

How did Paul demonstrate humility among the Ephesians? How did he demonstrate faithfulness to the gospel? What was he like during his time in Ephesus? Why does Paul emphasize these things in Acts 20:17–24 instead of simply telling the elders what to do?

Why was Paul in such a hurry to get to Jerusalem? Why would the Holy Spirit be "constraining" him to go there even though he knew imprisonment and affliction awaited him (20:23–24)? Would the Holy Spirit lead someone to do something even if suffering were attached to it?

GET PERSONAL

Finishing well was important to the Apostle Paul. Is it important to you? What would you like your legacy to be? How are you working toward that end? Could you recite with a clear conscience the three "end of life" statements above? Why or why not? What would it take for you to be able to say (or continue to say) those statements at the end of your life?

Read 2 Timothy 4:7–8. At this point in your life, would you be able to say what Paul says in 2 Timothy 4:7?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Are there any commitments you need to make right now that will help you finish life well? Are there people you need to forgive? Are you discipling others and intentionally pouring into them? Who do you need to ask to pour into you?

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

Using commentaries, study Bibles, and other resources, create a timeline for the end of Paul's life. Answer the following questions with your timeline: When was Paul in Miletus? When did he go to Jerusalem? When was he taken to Rome? Did he ever leave imprisonment in Rome? When did he write the prison epistles (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon)? When did he write the book of 2 Timothy? When did he write 1 Timothy and Titus? When did he die? Did he ever travel to Ephesus again before his death?