

## ***“A Final Word”***

**Acts 20:17-32**

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*The Apostle’s heart, pattern, and strategy in ministry: A lesson for the Church for all time.*

### **1. The Over-arching Strategy**

#### **(1) Initial: (Especially the work of an evangelist or church-planter)**

**-1- Preaching the Gospel in the Synagogue** - On Saturdays for 3 months cf. Acts 19:8-10

- A natural “door of opportunity”
- Opposition arose; those who were disciples were taken aside.

**-2- Discipleship in the School of Tyrannus** – approximately 2 years

- During the “siesta” period of the day (Some mss: “from the 5<sup>th</sup> hour to the 10<sup>th</sup>”)
- Paul stayed in Ephesus while co-laborers carried on church-planting in neighboring cities
- Churches established in Colossae, Hierapolis, Laodicea
- All seven of the churches of Asia (Revelation 2-3) founded at this time (?).

**Result:** *“all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks”* (19:10)

#### **(2) On-going - The church further established during this same period of time**

**-1- A Full-Orbed Pastoral Ministry**

- Humility and earnestness (20:19)
- (Self-sacrifice! cf. vv. 33-35)

*“I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house”*

- Public preaching and teaching in the regular gathering of the saints (v. 20, cf. v. 25)

*“declaring...teaching” “proclaiming the kingdom”*

- Close personal instruction and application privately *“from house to house”*

- Continued evangelism *“testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

**-2- Elders had been Trained, Ordained, and Installed** (cf. 20:17, 28)

### **2. The Indispensable Priority: Faithful Preaching and Teaching**

#### **(1) This had Established the Church**

**-1- Paul had faithfully discharged his responsibility** (26)

*“I am innocent of the blood of all”*

- cf. “the watchman” Ezekiel 33:1-9 (esp. 7-9)

**-2- Paul had faithfully and fully declared the truth**

**The Gospel Message** v. 21 *“repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ”*

*- “to Jews and also to Greeks”*

*- “the gospel of the grace of God”* (24)

**The Whole Counsel of God** v. 27

*- “I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable”* (20)

*- “I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.”*

*- “the word of his grace”* (32)

#### **(2) This alone can Preserve the Church vv. 28-32**

**-1- An inevitable attack comes from outside and from within!** (29-30)

**-2- The means of safety and preservation**

*- “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock”*

*- “be alert” (31a) By continued earnest and heartfelt admonition.*

### **Further Application**