

Exemplary Advice for Elders Acts 20:17-38

Reminder of Paul's blameless ministry: 17-27

- You yourselves know . . . (clearly offering himself as an example)
- Paul's ministry was done humbly in very difficult times. Note his emphasis on his refusal to *shrink back* from boldly preaching/teaching the gospel and biblical truth, which makes him *innocent of the blood of all men*, 5:28, 18:6.
- Paul doesn't know his exact fate, but he is well aware God has a difficult path laid out for him that begins at Jerusalem, recall 19:21, 23:11, 27:23.

Warnings for the elders: 28-32

- This is a key passage for understanding church government, as the elders (v.17) are also called *overseers* (bishops) who are to *shepherd* (pastor). Note synonymous use again in I Pt. 5:1-4 and I Tim. 3:1,2, 4:17.
- "Wolf-warnings": Matt. 7:15, Jn. 10:23, Lk. 10:3, and check out Ezek. 34.
- False teacher warning: I Tim. 4:1-4, II Pt. 2:1ff., Rom. 16:17,18, Titus 3:10

Reminder of Paul's unselfish work ethic: 33-35

- You yourselves know . . . (clearly offering himself as an example)
- Paul notes his lack of greed: I Thess. 2:5, I Tim. 6:5-10.
his work ethic: 18:1-3, I Thess. 2:9,10, II Thess. 3:7-10.
his care for the needy: 11:29,30, I Cor. 16:1-5, Gal. 2:10,

Weeping and praying with the elders: 36-38

- They all pray for each other, as both Paul and they will face difficulties.
- Weeping is over not seeing Paul again plus a concern for his fate, v.23



How does Paul's farewell speech compare to those by Moses, Joshua, Samuel, and even to Jesus.