

**GOOD MODEL IN LEADERSHIP!**  
**ACTS CH20:17-38**

Do you know how many preaches I've done including today's, on the Book of Acts? 56! Do you know how many are left? 18! Making it 74 altogether!



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**POTENTIAL CHRONOLOGY OF PAUL!**

Birth of Paul	5 BC - 10 AD
Death of Jesus	AD 27 - 29
Persecution of Christians	29 - 32
Paul's conversion	30
Ministry in Arabia/Damascus	30 - 33
<b>Jerusalem (1<sup>st</sup> Visit)</b> – Acts Ch9:26-29/Gal Ch1:18	33
Syria and Cilicia	35 - 46
Antioch – Acts Ch11:26 with Barnabas	46
<b>Jerusalem (2<sup>nd</sup> Visit)</b> – Acts Ch11:30/Gal Ch2:1	47
<b>First Missionary Journey</b>	47 – 48
Antioch, Syria – Acts Ch13:1-3	
Seleucia – Acts Ch13:4	
Salamis – Acts Ch13:5	
Paphos – Acts Ch13:6-12	
Perga – Acts Ch13:13	
Antioch, Galatia – Acts Ch13:14-52	
Iconium – Acts Ch14:1-6	
Lystra – Acts Ch14:6-19	

Derbe – Acts Ch14:20-21	
Lystra – Acts Ch14:21-23	
Iconium – Acts Ch14:21-23	
Antioch, Galatia – Acts Ch14:24	
Perga – Acts Ch14:24-25	
Attalia – Acts Ch14:25	
Antioch, Syria – Acts Ch14:26-28	
<b>Jerusalem (3<sup>rd</sup> Visit) – Acts Ch15:2</b>	49
Apostolic Council – Acts Ch15:6-29	49
<b><u>Second Missionary Journey</u></b>	49 - 51
Antioch, Syria – Acts Ch15:35	
Derbe – Acts Ch16:1	
Lystra – Acts Ch16:1-5	
Troas – Acts Ch16:7-10	
Samothrace – Acts Ch16:11	
Neapolis – Acts Ch16:11	
Philippi – Acts Ch16:12-40	
Amphipolis – Acts Ch17:1	
Apollonia – Acts Ch17:1	
Thessalonica – Acts Ch17:1-9	
Berea – Acts Ch17:10-14	
Athens – Acts Ch17:15-32	
Corinth – Acts Ch18:1-17	
<i>1 Letter to the Galatians (Place - Corinth - Acts Ch18:1-17)</i>	49
<i>2 + 3 Letters 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians (Place – Corinth - Acts Ch18:5)</i>	50/51
Cenchreae – Acts Ch18:18	
Ephesus – Acts Ch18:19-21	
Caesarea – Acts Ch18:22	
<b>Jerusalem – (4<sup>th</sup> Visit) Acts Ch18:22</b>	
Antioch, Syria – Acts Ch18:22	51
<b><u>Third Missionary Journey</u></b>	52 - 57
Antioch, Syria – Acts Ch18:22	
Ephesus – Acts Ch19:1-40	52 - 55
Corinth – Acts Ch20:2-3	55 - 56
<i>4 + 5 Letters 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians (Place – Ephesus – Acts Ch20:1)</i>	55 - 56
<i>6 Letter to Romans (Place – Corinth – Acts Ch20:2-3)</i>	56
Philippi – Acts Ch20:6	
Troas – Acts Ch20:6-12	
Assos – Acts Ch20:13-14	
Mitylene – Acts Ch20:14	
Chios – Acts Ch20:15	
Samos – Acts Ch20:15	
Miletus – Acts Ch20:15	
Cos – Acts Ch21:1	
Rhodes – Acts Ch21:1	
Patara – Acts Ch21:1	
Tyre – Acts Ch21:3-6	
Ptolemais – Acts Ch21:7	
Caesarea – Acts Ch21:8-14	
<b>Jerusalem (5<sup>th</sup> Visit + Final Time) Acts Ch21:15-17</b>	57
Imprisonment in Caesarea	57 - 59
Journey to Rome	59 - 60

House arrest in Rome	60 - 63
7, 8, 9 + 10 Letters to Ephesians, Col, Phil, Philemon	
11 + 12 Letters to Timothy (1 <sup>st</sup> Tim Ch1:3) + Titus (Ch3:12)	62
Second imprisonment - Rome	63 - 68
13 + Final Letter 2 <sup>nd</sup> Timothy	63 - 68
Martyred by beheading	68

### ***PAUL'S MANNER IN MINISTRY! V17-23***

V17 - Paul summons the Ephesian Elders to meet him at Miletus, to avoid spending time in Ephesus (Ch20:16) as he was determined to reach Jerusalem before Pentecost (Ch20:16). His speech to the Elders from Ephesus, and there are 9 speeches in Acts by Paul, **5 in sermons** Ch13:16-41; Ch14:15-18; Ch17:22-31; Ch20:18-38 + Ch28:17-28 + **4 in defence speeches** Ch22:1-21; 23:1-8; 24:10-21; 26:2-27, but this is the only one **where the audience is completely Christian!**

The completely Christian audience are Church Leaders, Elders, a team of godly leaders who have responsibility for Christ's Church! So what is an **ELDER/EPISKOPOS**? "The Biblical image of a shepherd caring for his flock – standing long hours ensuring safety, leading it to fresh pasture and clear water, carrying the weak, seeking the lost, healing the wounded and sick – is precious. The whole image of the Palestinian shepherd is characterized by the intimacy, tenderness, concern, skill, hard work, suffering and love. It is, as former London Bible College professor Derek J. Tidball remarks in his Book, Skilful Shepherds, "a subtle blend of authority and care, and as much toughness as tenderness, as much courage as comfort." (Cited in Biblical Eldership pg 16) The shepherd-sheep relationship is so incredibly rich that the Bible uses it repeatedly to describe God and His love for His people, for example in Psalm 23 or Ezekiel Ch34. The secret to caring for sheep is "love". Elders must have a passion for people!

According to **1<sup>st</sup> Timothy Ch3:1**, "Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task." This is the second of the five "Trustworthy sayings" in the Pastoral letters (1 Timothy Ch1:15, here, 1 Timothy Ch4:9, 2 Timothy Ch2:11 and Titus Ch3:8). So what exactly is the trustworthy saying? Paul relates to the second part of verse 1, namely, that "he desires a noble task", that is the trustworthy saying. Someone who sets his heart, literally reaches out or stretches out his hand, to serve or help others, this is a noble task. **How have we as a Church interpreted this in our own elders?** Firstly, it means that a man has a passion for people, a passion for serving other people's needs more so than his own! Secondly, because the very nature of the work is caring and nurturing God's rescued, redeemed chosen people! This is why it is described as noble!

But who establishes this desire? It is established by God! It involves a call of God, an inner inspiration by God and a changed life by God, so that one can be an example for God! Ephesians Ch4:7-11 – It is through the grace of God that He "gave some to be ..... and some to be pastors and teachers." Acts Ch14:23 – elders appoint elders (This is what it states within our Constitution Rules). Acts Ch20:28 – God the Holy Spirit assigns "overseers" to God's flock.

The Elder must set an example, of how to live: According to 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy Ch3:2 - He must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, V3 - not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. V4 - He must manage his own family well, and see that his children obey him with proper respect. V6 - He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. V7 - He must also have a good reputation with outsiders. **These are the qualifications for eldership!**

V18 - Paul now encourages the Ephesian Elders to remember! He wants them to remember how his manner was when he arrived and ministered in Ephesus during his 3 year stay there!

- V19 Serving
- V19 Humble

- V19 Tears
- V19 Trials

It is important to look at and analyse 3 "T's" when it comes to Pastors, their Teaching, over Time with the Trials they face. Do they preach and teach the Bible well over time, 5, 10, 15, 20 years? What is their faith like when facing trials? Paul is asking the Ephesian Elders to reflect and consider these things.

V20-23 – Look at the words that Paul uses – Declare, teach + testify God's Word!

V22-V23 – We see the first of the three prophecies concerning Paul and Jerusalem – Ch21:4 + Ch21:11

### **PAUL'S GOAL IN MINISTRY! V24-27**

V24 – Luke records for us Paul's ultimate goal in life ***"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."***

Examine the words that Paul uses, v24 - testify, v25 - proclaiming, v26 - testify, v27 - declaring, a speaking ministry, a teaching ministry a preaching ministry! His ultimate goal in life was to complete the preaching ministry that Christ had given him! Because he believed that a humans biggest need was to turn to God in "repentance (***There is much confusion about the meaning of the word "repentance" and what it actually means. The word repentance comes from the Greek word "metanoia" which means "a change of mind"***) and to place their trust and faith in the life and death of the Lord Jesus Christ" (v21).

### **PAUL'S PATTERN IN MINISTRY! V28-38**

V28 - Paul warns the Ephesian Elders to pay attention to themselves first and then to the flock, which God the Holy Spirit has made them overseers of. It is vital that all Elders love and serve their flock, sacrificially! For Elders to do this they have to take ***personal responsibility*** for their relationship with Christ!

The Church that the Elders are to care for is of the ultimate price, because it has been bought by ***CHRIST'S OWN BLOOD!***

V29-30 -The warning is because from among their own congregation false teachers (fierce wolves) will preach erroneously, taking disciples away from the truth of Jesus!

V31-38 - The Elders are instructed to be alert and remember! They are to follow Paul's pattern of v32 relying on God's Word to bring and sustain all spiritual life, to V35 work hard in loving and caring for the flock, by feeding, protecting, leading and caring for them!

V35 - To help with this attitude, preaching and behaviour, Paul reminds them what the Lord Jesus said "it is more blessed to give than receive."

The Ephesian Elders are most upset because v25+38, they will never see Paul's face again this side of Eternity.

### **APPLICATION**

Do we know who our Elders are?

Do we value their input?

How can we be a joy to their ministry?