

WARM-UP

- Name someone whose talent amazes you. How did you feel when you first saw or met this person?
- What is one description you don't like people using to introduce you? Why don't you like it?
- Tell us about a time you sacrificed for something that you knew was more valuable.

WORD *"But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, 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."* **ACTS 20:24**

(Read also **MATTHEW 28:18-20**; **ACTS 1:8**; **REVELATION 5:9-10**.)

As we know God through devotion to Him, we can also know His heart for the nations. From devotion, we are moved to mission. In Acts 20, Paul spoke a farewell speech to the Ephesian elders, knowing he would return to Jerusalem to be imprisoned. He expressed his passion for testifying about God, and that this was of the greatest value to him: to finish his race and the ministry he received from God. Today, we will look at important lessons from Paul about our mission of making the gospel of the grace of God through Jesus Christ known.

1 | We are to wholeheartedly treasure God's mission.

"But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself . . ." **ACTS 20:24**

Paul was willing to obey God even at the cost of his own life. He left the comfort of his home. He even worked to finance the mission to Corinth which he himself was on. He was willing to be mocked and persecuted; moreso to suffer and die for the sake of the gospel. He valued the mission because he had received it from Jesus. Likewise, we are to wholeheartedly treasure the mission. When we realize that it was given to us by Jesus Himself who suffered and died for our sake so that we might receive the grace of God for salvation, we will grow to value God's mission more. What are some ways you have shown value for God's mission?

2 | We should faithfully do our part in God's mission.

"... 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."

ACTS 20:24

We are given the privilege of participating in completing God's mission here on earth. In God's mission to reach all nations, He has given each of us a part to play. Not everyone is called to long-term missions, but we each have a distinct purpose in Christ. Though we may not see how it ends, we can take peace knowing that we answered God's call and participated in His mission to redeem people from every tribe and language (Revelation 5:9). From where you are today, what would you say you are being called to? How can you make Jesus known to those around you?

APPLICATION

- Reflect on your personal life and walk with God. How have you valued or treasured God's mission? What do you think God is calling you to do today?
- Do you know how to continue God's mission from where you are? Where do you believe that God is sending you?
- Name one person that God has placed in your heart. Pray for wisdom to make God known to that person.

