

ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

Study 46: The Motivation of Paul: Finish Well

READ Acts 20:22-27 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

As the Apostle Paul encouraged the elders from the church at Ephesus, he declared to them the hidden motivation of his life. This was a motivation that was a driving passion and desire which allowed him to remain focused on the Lord's work despite many challenges and difficulties he experienced. Paul said, "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).

Big idea: Paul shows us that valuing gospel faithfulness over life in the present allows us to meet future challenges with courage, protects us from the guilt of past failures, and ensures a crown of glory.

Questions:

1. A. What do you place the most value on in your life?

B. What did Paul value most in life (v. 24) and what did this mean?

C. Why should every Christian flee from "the Australian dream"? Is it wrong to look forward to a comfortable retirement?

D. What practical changes might take place in your life if you embrace Paul's value system today?

2. What is the "Gospel of the grace of God" (v. 24) and why do you think Paul desired to testify to it? See Eph 2:8-9 and 1 Cor 2:2.
3. Paul wanted to finish well (v. 24). What did he strive to do in order to accomplish this? See also 2 Tim 4:7-8, Phil 3:13-14, and 1 Cor 9:18-23.
4. Is ministry the calling of every Christian or only of some? Give biblical support for your answer.
5. What did Paul believe was in his own future (vv. 22-23) and what was it that enabled him to embrace it without fear? See also Matt 10:22 and Luke 9:23.
6. Does verse 26 imply that somehow Christians can be responsible for another person's going to hell? What do you think Paul means?
7. What has most encouraged or convicted you from this week's study regarding Paul's motivation for ministry and how might you respond?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: God for godly, faithful men and women who, going before us, finished well

Thank: God for the gospel of the grace of God that saves us and keeps us in Christ

Pray: that you would not be tempted to seek lesser things than service to King Jesus