

Acts of Jesus 44 A final farewell notes

Acts 20:13-21

- V. 13** – Sort of a suburb of the ancient metropolis of Troas was Assos across an isthmus of about 20 miles or so.
- Luke and the others sail around the isthmus which was about 40 miles.
- VV. 14-15** – Getting a flavor for how ocean travel went in these days = 50-60 miles per day rarely very far from the coast and often pulling into port for the night.
- We have the island of Samos to thank for the Pythagorean theorem (sum of the squares of the lengths of the sides of a right triangle are equal to the square of the hypotenuse) because Pythagoras was born there.
- VV. 16-17** – Paul had already spent 2 ½ years in Ephesus and would be very delayed if he took the time to tell the entire church goodbye one more time.
- Back in **verse 6** they had arrived in Troas after Unleavened Bread and Paul was trying to make it to Jerusalem by Pentecost which gave him exactly 50 days to cross the Mediterranean and travel up to Jerusalem.
- He stops in Miletus which was directly on the coast south of Ephesus and asks the elders (pastors or overseers of the different churches)
- Elders = Presbuteros: where Presbyterians get their name because of their elder lead form of church government. Which is biblical.
- This is what is called a congregational church because the congregation has a say in the direction of the church. It is also biblical.
- Which should we have: congregational or elder lead church? Both !

The church at Ephesus figures very prominent in the New Testament.
in addition to acts: 2 ½ chapters in Acts concern it; Book of Ephesians;
I, II Timothy; Letter to Ephesus in Revelation 2—all written to the same church.

- VV. 18-19** – Some might be inclined to read the words of Paul here as some form of boast about how good he was, but he is really defending his ministry because many by this time are slandering him (including other believers).
- Be so careful about calling anyone's character into question or any minister or ministry. The devil Loves to divide us and he does this by playing on our sense of suspicion.
- Remember the book of Proverbs describes a wise man as one who is very careful with and therefore says few things in comparison to a fool who runs at the mouth.
- If you have a problem with "verbal diarrhea", take a healthy dose of Proverbs!
- Remember this rule of thumb: If someone had to tell you about it, it is A rumor and deserves little if any of your time or thought and certainly is not to be repeated.
- V. 20** – Down in **verse 32** he leaves them with the Word, and here he says he started and maintained a ministry of the Word.

- Always the sufficiency of the Word of God. "How did they make it without our books on finances and parenting and discipleship and worship and evangelism, etc.?"
- You don't need any of those books! (Not to say that the gifts of teaching, preaching, instruction aren't gifts of the Spirit that are certainly needed by the church. God supplies the needs of the church through that giftedness; nevertheless, gifts come and go but the Bible will remain forever.).
- If there is a teaching or preaching or instruction which is helpful for life It's merely the application and explanation of the Word of God.
- Buy books and read them, there are many that are very helpful, but there is no substitute for reading the Bible in the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- II Tim. 3:16-17 – It is the source of all that is good and helpful.

Too many Christians suffer from vertigo: you know what that is – the inner ear problem that makes the world spin this way and the room spin that way.

That's not the vertigo I'm talking about. I'm talking about spiritual vertigo. It's hard to diagnose. Things just aren't right and don't work out. There is no spiritual fire; you give into temptations you don't normally give in to; you don't act the way you know you should; you have unexplainable frustrations and inner tensions and turmoil. Is that you? You have spiritual vertigo. There is only one cure for it: healthy dose of the Word of God. There is a direct correlation, if you'll look carefully at your life, between the amount of time you spend in the Word and the amount of spiritual vertigo going on in your life.

- Jesus said, "You will know the truth and the truth will make you free"
So, **KNOW THE TRUTH!**

Without it we get not only spiritual vertigo but also spiritual anemia. You know how anemia is: low blood count which leads to all kinds of symptoms and problems including dizziness, chronic tiredness, susceptibility to illnesses, overall physical weakness. The most prescribed remedy is an increase of iron in your system. A similar thing happens when you have a low Bible count. Can't think straight, spiritual tiredness, susceptibility to spiritual contagions, overall spiritual weakness. Only remedy is an increase of the spiritual iron of the Word in your life.

Why are we so mixed up in America; why are we so spiritually ill?

- Americans who say the Bible is the actual Word of God and should be taken word-for-word: 28 percent
- Americans who said this 30 years ago: 38 percent

America's illness is not hard to diagnose