

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – March 15, 2020

Theme: The Acts of the Apostles Topic: Complete the task

Main Text: Acts 19:1-20

Key verse: Acts 20:32 *"So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified"* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: Paul was hurrying to get to Jerusalem but on his way there, he would stop to encourage the believers in all the towns he passed through. But with Ephesus, he feels he was running out of time and decided not to enter Ephesus. Instead, when he got to Miletus, Paul sent for the elders of the Ephesian church to meet him in Miletus, 50 km away. When those Elders arrived, Paul reviewed his labours with them: his humility in serving the Lord; tears and trials he endured; his courage in teaching them what they needed not what they preferred to hear (in public as well as house-to-house); his one message for either Jews or Greeks – that of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 1. (a) Let participants read Acts 20:17-27 and try to identify some of the key elements of Paul's life and attitude to his ministry (b) Which of Paul's stated attitude and lifestyle do we need to see more among us so that the gospel will reach everyone (c) What will it take for these attitudes to become imbued in us believers today?**

As Paul headed for Jerusalem, he was sure of one thing - chains and tribulations. Beyond that he had no clue what to expect. But neither the unsavoury certainties nor the uncertainties would deter him from his one goal in life, *'... finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.'* (Acts 20:24), He went on to boldly declare, *"... I am innocent of the blood of all men"* (Acts 20:26)

- 2. (a) Why do you think Paul could boldly declare that he was innocent of the blood of all men? E.g. Acts 20:27,31 (b) Let participants compare Acts 20:24 and Luke 9:23. List some of the requirements for completing our God-given mandate. How do these requirements make you feel – encouraged/challenged/convicted? (c) What, in your experience, makes these requirements difficult to attain? What can we do about it?**

What Paul had to say to the Elders of the Church in Ephesus was quite heavy. No wonder he insisted on the meeting. When the Elders of the Church in Ephesus arrived, Paul exhorted them with his own life as an example. He warned them of some dangers to expect – *'savage wolves.'* And then told them what they must do in order to succeed in their responsibility.

- 3. (a) Let participants share what they believe to be the significance of Paul's meeting with the Elders of the Church rather than with the entire congregation. See Acts 20:28 (b) When you consider the leadership actions and attitudes Paul exemplified and roles he outlines in Acts 20:17-27, 33-35, what kind of leaders should VFC be looking for? (c) Let participants read Acts 20:28-32 and identify the danger and some antidotes Paul outlined. How would a lay-led Church like VFC protect itself and its members from the stated dangers?**

Prayer: Our Father, please give us the passion and grace to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ that we may finish our race with joy by the power of the Holy Spirit Amen.