

The Church on Mission

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me..." Acts 1:8

Good News Baptist Church
AM Message

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SLEEPY SAINTS NEED THE WORD OF GOD

Acts 20:1-16

Context: Paul leaves Ephesus after a huge riot has calmed down. Paul, then, travels to strengthen several churches. Greece and Macedonia are Paul's destination after a plot against Paul is revealed. His desire is to go to Syria. In chapter 20, Paul has been collecting a love offering for the Jerusalem Christians and writes the books of 2 Corinthians and Romans.

You should be a fruitful disciple of Christ by encouraging and equipping followers of Christ with the Word of God.

Fruitful Discipling of Others:

1. Treasures pouring encouragement into people (Acts 20:1-2).

➤ *Try to think of ways to incorporate encouragement, hope, and faith into your conversations.*

2. Treasures training godly servant leaders (Acts 20:3-6).

➤ *Paul is not making monuments to himself but faithful recruits. He trains believers to be faithful to God. Who can you invest in and how can you help them grow and mature?*

➤ *Do you view your time mentoring others as an offering to God? Look for teachable individuals who are willing to devote themselves to Christ.*

3. Treasures the elements of Sunday's worship (Acts 20:7).

➤ *Don't let the Word of God or communion be routine to you. Prepare for it with prayer, being rested up beforehand. Look for fresh insights and engage yourself in thinking through the texts and applying devotional thoughts. Set Sunday aside for loving God, prayer, and catching up on your Bible reading.*

4. Treasures making a big deal about the Word of God over experiences (Acts 20:8-12).

➤ *How do you stay awake in Church? Determine it's important. Work to respect God in this way. We all need sleep, so plan to get your Z's in. Sometimes we sleep in church because we are disinterested due to sin in our lives. We need to repent and pray God restores the joy of our salvation.*

5. Treasures associational ministry with other sound churches (Acts 20:1-6, 13-16).

➤ *Organizations who assist churches: Continental Baptist Mission-church revitalization and church planting ministry. The Iowa Association of Regular Baptist Churches has an "Iowa Cares" fund, a statewide benevolence fund to help pastors and their families going through major health difficulties, house fires, etc. Baptist Children's Home-caring for orphans around the world. Shepherd's Home-taking care of special needs individuals. Other ministries include- Answers in Genesis, Raccoon River Bible Camp, Baptist Mid-Missions, Faith Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary, etc.*