

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

Pastor John Woodford
April 26, 2020

SELF-PRESERVATION OR FREEDOM TO SERVE GOD PART 1

Acts 20:17-27

Context: Paul shares three encounters with the Ephesians from Acts 18:23-21:17. Paul's focus has been on faithfully ministering the Word of God despite interruptions. The Passover mentioned in Acts 20:16 is likely April 15th, AD 57.

God wants us to deny ourselves with a servant's devotion for His causes.

Servant devotion for God's causes:

1. Values integrity's consistency (Acts 20:16-18).

➤ *Look to clearly communicate needed plans and follow through with what you share with people. Don't dismiss your obligations over what you wishfully want to do. Be mindful of the expectations you create for those around you.*

2. Humbly gives an unshakable commitment to God by loving His people (Acts 20:19).

A. Unpretentious lowliness (1 Corinthians 1:30-31).

B. Sharing and entering into people's pain (Philippians 3:18; 2 Corinthians 2:4).

C. Faithfully face trials (James 1:2-4).

➤ *You are not loving people if you are thinking about what they owe you. Refuse to go there. To be devoted to God's causes, think on what love would do.*

➤ *Bear people's pain with them as part of your service to God.*

➤ *Don't be surprised or angry with trials. They are God's gift to build endurance in you.*