

# 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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## THE ADVENTURE OF SELF-DENIAL FOR CHRIST

### Acts 20:20-27

Context: Paul is giving a farewell address to the pastors/elders from Ephesus while he meets them in Miletus (Acts 20:17). Paul has exemplified godly servant leadership for God's causes by valuing integrity's forthright consistency (Acts 20:16-18) and humility's unshakable commitment to God by loving people (Acts 20:19).

*We need to practice self-denial to have a servant's devotion for God's causes.*

### Servant devotion for God's causes:

1. Believes the Word of God is so essential for people, you cannot dodge communicating it (Acts 20:20-21, 27).

A. Repentance

B. Faith toward God

C. The whole counsel of God

- *A pastoral heart for God's causes ministers the Word of God and shares verses with the saved and the lost to point them to God. Make sure you are training and sharpening Christians with the Word of God and not just your experiences. Encourage an investigative thirst to find answers in the Bible.*

2. Lets go of your will because you bind your heart to the Spirit's leading (Acts 20:22-25).

A. Faces uncertainty because of Who is in control (v. 22).

B. Faces jeopardy without self-preservation (v. 23-24; 9:16).

i. The Gospel of God's grace makes you indifferent to earthly gain (Philippians 3:7-8).

ii. The Gospel of Grace fuels a determination to give Jesus your all (1 Corinthians 9:25-27; 2 Timothy 4:7-8).

C. Faces responsibility with a bigger view of God than your fears (v. 25-27).

- *What joys, hopes, cravings, and values define you? Who are you trying to advance? Has the world's view of the American dream distracted you from taking up your cross daily and for Christ and His causes?*
  
- *Do you view living your life as secondary to God's will? Faith is an adventure of trusting God to do His will through you. We need a sense of reckless abandon that says, "I'm all in for Jesus. His cause is what is worth living for." William Carey said, "Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God."*