

Acts 20:22–31 (ESV): 22 And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. 24 But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. 25 And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. 26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, 27 for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. 28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

This is Paul's 3rd missionary journey: Antioch to Ephesus. In Ephesus, there was a big uproar because the townspeople were pagans (unbelievers of the True God) and a lot of their work was dedicated to the pagan gods, creating goods to worship them. The Ephesian's livelihoods were being threatened by the Gospel because people were being drawn in to the True God, which was causing people to not believe in their false gods, taking away their money and prestige. Paul leaves this mission to reach another territory.

As Paul continues his journey, he travels through Macedonia and then down to Miletus, skipping Ephesus. While Paul was in Miletus, he sends for the elders in Ephesus to come join him. Paul likely skipped Ephesus to get to Jerusalem faster to attend Pentecost. In verses 18-21, Paul is telling the elders that he has never "shrank back" or retreated out of fear of teaching about Jesus, yet he confirms his mission to do God's work of spreading the Gospel throughout the whole world no matter what the cost was, even unto death.

At the end of these verses, Paul gives a cringing warning to the new believers in Ephesus...



BE ALERT! The enemy is ALWAYS prowling around, aiming to steal, kill and destroy. Unfortunately, the enemy uses people to sneak into the church to manipulate the Bible and undermine church leadership. Keep a keen eye out and study The Word, so that you don't become a fool to the shenanigans of the evil ones.