

# “GIVE UP YOUR LIFE!”

Acts 20:13-24

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## INTRODUCTION

Paul’s entire life was about God—serving Him and advancing His program; that included reaching the lost, discipling the saved, and building up the church. His life was not about self! This we see clearly from our text.

What about you? What is your life about?

- Promoting your self-interests
- Becoming successful and building solid financial interests and material possessions
- Enjoying multiple sources of entertainment both in the home and outside of the home
- Cherishing free time to relax, vacation, entertain, and do things for self, family, and friends

Is life all about yourself, your family, your friends, and your interests? **Where does God’s kingdom and His gospel work fit into your plans?**

When your life is over, what will you have to show for it at the **Judgment seat of Christ?**

**YOU MUST GIVE UP YOUR LIFE AND BEGIN TO LIVE YOUR LIFE FULLY FOR GOD AND HIS GLORY!**

First, we need to trace the steps of Paul’s journey toward Jerusalem, remembering that even this part of the text shows that Paul’s focus was on worship, ministry to others, and expanding Gospel outreach.

- 1) From Troas to Assos (v. 13)—Note that Paul went by foot, while his companions went on the ship. What an amazing man: *ministering all day, preaching all night till morning, then walking 20 miles to meet the ship!* He likely stayed to make sure that Eutychus was OK and to finalize any personal contacts and ministry needs before departing.
- 2) From Assos to Mitylene (on the island of Lesbos; v. 14)
- 3) From Mitylene to Chios—an island and city a few miles off the coast of Asia Minor (15a)
- 4) From Chios to Samos (another island and city)—past the entrance to Ephesus
- 5) From Samos (or *Trogyllia*) they arrived at Miletus—the practical seaport of Ephesus about 30 miles distant.

I. SEEKING TO WORSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ GOD AT THE FEAST OF PENTECOST (16-17)

- A. Sailing past Ephesus so as not to spend too much time there (16)
- B. Sending to Ephesus for the elders of the church (17)
- C. This was a significant training time for church leaders, and an inspirational time for them

II. \_\_\_\_\_ WHEN MINISTERING IN EPHESUS (18)

Too much moving on to “greener pastures”

III. \_\_\_\_\_ SELFLESSLY (19)

- A. With All Humility
- B. With Tears

- C. With Trials—tests—including various “plots of the Jews”
- IV. NO \_\_\_\_\_ FROM DUTY (20)
- A. Declaring everything that was profitable for them
- Not limited to what they wanted
  - Not limited to what was popular
  - Concerned with what was good for their spiritual well-being
- B. Teaching them
1. Publicly—in synagogue (19:8) and at the School of Tyrannus (19:9)
  2. From house to house—not merely house churches also families: *Paul was not merely making social visits when he went into homes, but was “doing kingdom business.*
- V. SOLEMNLY \_\_\_\_\_ (21)
- A. To both Jews and Greeks (Rom. 1:16)
- B. Of both Repentance toward God and Faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ
- C. About the Gospel of the Grace of God (24)
- VI. \_\_\_\_\_ TO GOD’S WILL (22-23)
- A. His human spirit is bound to do what is right—no matter the difficulty  
He goes to Jerusalem—whatever the cost or trouble.
- B. The Holy Spirit directs and controls his behavior and destiny. (23)
1. He solemnly testifies to Paul everywhere he goes.
  2. He warns about the “bonds” and afflictions that await Paul.
- VII. \_\_\_\_\_ LIFE (24)
- A. His life is **of no account**—is **not dear to himself**.
- B. He must finish his course.
- C. He must complete his servant ministry that **the Lord Jesus gave him**.

#### CONCLUSION

Life is short. **Don’t waste it on yourself!**

*You only get one life! Live it for the Lord.*

*Seek to worship God, Stay put, Serve selflessly, don’t Shrink from duty, Solemnly testify the Gospel, be Spirit Bound in your soul, live a Sacrificial life.*

**YOU MUST GIVE UP YOUR LIFE AND BEGIN TO LIVE YOUR LIFE FULLY FOR GOD AND HIS GLORY!**