

Mission 2 Sunday

SCRIPTURE STUDY NOTES

* *The God Who Bleeds and the Church that Cries* *

Acts 20:17-38

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. From the message or from the Spring Report, share something that encourages you about our church family?
2. What is one challenge or opportunity that our church family is facing that motivates or excites you the most?

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. The record of the early church in Acts provides an honest account of the real joys and struggles of following Christ in community. After years of proclaiming the message of Jesus across the Roman Empire, Paul meets together with the elders of one of his most loved and supportive churches to say a final farewell. Here he reviews with them his own journey as well as his heart for them as a church family. Read Paul's farewell speech in Acts 20:17-38.
 - a) What verse or idea stands out to you the most from this passage? Why?
 - b) Comparing verse 17 with verse 28 we see that the New Testament uses the terms elder, overseer, and pastor interchangeably. Quick Test: How does The Meeting House use these terms?
 - c) Notice no one elder, overseer, or pastor is considered the leader of the church in Ephesus. From what you know, in what ways does The Meeting House emphasize and practice team leadership. What are the strengths and weaknesses of this approach to church leadership as opposed to the singular, alpha leader?
 - d) In verse 20, Paul states his strategy of outreach and discipleship has been teaching publically and from house to house. What do you see are the benefits, limitations, and challenges of this approach?
 - e) Paul points out there are two ways a church can be attacked: by those outside the church (verses 19, 23) and by people inside the church who are seeking to win the loyalty of people to their perspective and thereby draw them away (verses 29-31). How might our church family experience external opposition to our message and mission? In what ways might someone "distort the truth" and challenge the unity of our church from the inside? If that happens, how should a Home Church respond?
 - f) According to verse 35, helping the "weak" is portrayed by Paul as a key aspect of the mission of the church. How do you think The Meeting House is doing in this regard? How about your Home Church? How about you?

SO WHAT?...

4. Throughout this speech Paul reveals his hard work and deep passion for Christ and those he served. To what extent would "hard work" and "deep passion" describe your involvement with Christ and his church? In what ways do you think your life would change if your passion grew?
5. Meditate on verse 24 for a few minutes. Then, turn your meditation into a prayer.

Bruxy Cavey & Tim Day @ THE MEETING HOUSE – May 10, 2009