

Acts 20:17-38
Sermon Notes
September 23, 2018

Paul's pep talk:

1. Selfless humility and compassion leave you with no regrets

Humility is the opposite of a sense of entitlement.

John Piper

Romans 1:14 ESV

14 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

Paul's growth in humility:

I am the least of the apostles. 1 Corinthians 15:9 (~57 A.D.)

I am the very least of all the saints. Ephesians 3:8 (~62 A.D.)

I am the foremost of sinners. 1 Timothy 1:15 (~65 A.D.)

Philippians 2:3-4 ESV

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Paul's pep talk:

2. Hard-working generosity gives your life meaning and purpose.

Difference between happy life and meaningful life:

Happiness without meaning is characterized by a relatively shallow and often self-oriented life, in which things go well, needs and desires are easily satisfied, and difficult or taxing entanglements are avoided. The unhappy but meaningful life involves difficult undertakings and can be characterized by stress, struggle and challenges. However, these people—connected to a larger sense of purpose and value—make positive contributions to society. The meaningful life guides actions from the past through the present to the future, giving one a sense of direction.

Difference between happy life and meaningful life (cont):

Happiness was linked to being a taker rather than a giver, whereas meaningfulness went with being a giver rather than a taker.

Hebrews 13:16 ESV

16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Proverbs 19:17 ESV

17 Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.

Paul's pep talk:

3. Growth in grace provides hope and a future.

John 15:5 ESV

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Titus 2:11-12 ESV

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

Grace is not weak. It doesn't say that it is the law of God that trains us, or our strong will, or the right curriculum. No, it says that it is grace that transforms people from lives of ungodliness and worldly passions to lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly. Grace!

Grace Based Recovery

Galatians 5:1 ESV

1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Proverbs 24:16 ESV

16 for the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.

Romans 6:23 ESV

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 8:10-11 ESV

10 Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."