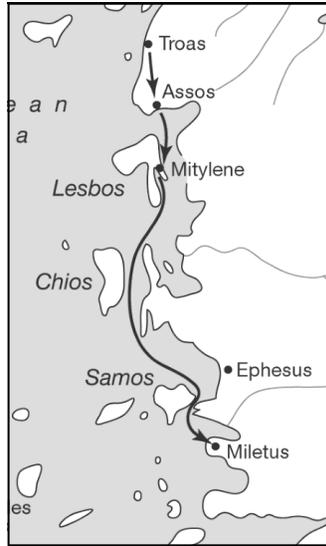


**Decade of Availability
Bound in the Spirit**

Background: vv. 13-16 So why did Paul walk to Assos? We don't know for sure but it looks like he may have gone alone—to spend time with the Lord.

Everything Paul does is with Spirit-led intention. The decision in vs. 16 to bypass the port of Ephesus was in part due to Paul's hast to get to Jerusalem.



Farewell to the Ephesians Part I

A. Reviewing the Past vv. 17-21

1. You know: v. 18 Paul's life, as ours should be...was open for all to see. The manner of his life: *He...*

- Served the Lord
- Was humble
- Shed tears for the lost and for the Church
- Was tested by those who opposed the Gospel
- Shared what was profitable to his hearers
- Both showed and taught them the things of God
- Testified of both repentance and faith

*What do people know of you?
How would they describe your walk with God?
How would they describe your faith and love?*

B. Looking to the Future vv. 22-24

1. A not so bright future: vv. 22-23 It is clear that from his first encounter with the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:16) he was destined to suffer in ministry. Over the past year this message was given over and over in various places. But it was a God thing and Paul's response was also a God thing: v. 24; 2 Tim 4:16-18

- None of this moves me or frightens me
- My life is not the most important thing
- I am determined to finish with JOY
- I will finish the ministry that I received from Jesus
- That ministry is the Gospel of Grace

*What frightens you?
What or who would you lay down your life for?
What is the real joy of your life?*

C. Declaring the Present vv. 25-27

1. This is the last day I will see you: v. 25 This had to be a sad day for Paul as he dearly loved these people.

2. My last word: vv. 26-27 "To make a record..." meant that this is what they should never forget about Paul's goodbye. "Pure from the blood of all..." means that he faithfully shared the Gospel message according to his call into ministry. He also shared the 'whole counsel of God,' meaning the full teaching of the Old and New Testaments fulfilled in the Messiah.

*What would your last words be to those you would never see?
Have you shared the Gospel with all who God leads you to?*

Acts 20:13-27 (KJV)

13 And we went before to ship, and sailed unto Assos, there intending to take in Paul: for so had he appointed, minding himself to go afoot. **14** And when he met with us at Assos, we took him in, and came to Mitylene. **15** And we sailed thence, and came the next day over against Chios; and the next day we arrived at Samos, and tarried at Trogyllium; and the next day we came to Miletus. **16** For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.

17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

18 And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

19 Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

25 And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.

26 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.

27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.