

SERMON NOTES: AUG. 25th
Scripture Readings...John 14: 25-27, Acts 20: 17-24

PAUL SAYS GOODBYE...Luke adds a TEARJERKER: Paul says goodbye to old friends from Ephesus; a few of Elders from Ephesus join him on a dock to bid farewell. This was his last mission trip, stopping to see familiar places/faces. They tried to listen to him, but this was the last time that they'd ever see him. We value the last words of loved ones. His last words are a statement about his life's work

If only I may finish my course, testify to God's grace. It's how he wants to finish, how I want to finish: testifying to God's grace.

Our legacy isn't a resume. The marks we leave are purposes that drive and define our lives Paul saw his legacy standing on the dock.

DESTINY MOMENTS...Time is measured in MINUTES but life is measured in MOMENTS, or destiny-defining moments. Most of our days vanish like vapor into the subconscious but our sense of direction is shaped by a dozen defining moments. From his conversion to his last breath, Paul's destiny was to champion a MOVEMENT that he first tried to destroy.

What have been your destiny moments? What defined you? What lessons did you learn or character traits did God cultivate in you?

MORE THAN A TRAVELOGUE...in ways reminiscent of Jesus trip to Jerusalem Luke isn't writing a TRAVELOGUE of Paul's last voyage. He is making a statement about his life. Like Jesus, Paul faced trials, jail, rejection. Like Jesus, Paul feared no enemy and endured to the end. Paul's life was not a MODEL OF SUCCESS but a STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT. Serving Jesus added LIFE TO HIS YEARS but not YEARS TO HIS LIFE. What is your life's purpose? Having no answer isn't an answer.

Will you live in fear or take the adventure of faith? What chances would you take now if you knew you only had 6 months to live? Are you playing life too safe and being too careful?

FAREWELLS ARE ON A CLOCK...this is the only speech in Acts given to BELIEVERS, who already had faith in Jesus. All others are evangelistic messages given to potential converts or legal defenses before authorities. How odd! The only sermon directed to Christians is about saying goodbye. Farewells are tough; they evoke memories. We say goodbye, knowing that the ship on which our loved ones left will arrive on a distant shore. God puts all our good-byes on a clock.