

LESSON 3: ACTS 20:25-21:31

The Third Missionary Journey: Paul's Address to the Ephesian Elders (cont'd)

1. What does it mean when Paul declares that he is innocent of their blood (vv. 25-27)? Compare this with Ezekiel 3:18-21, 33:2-9, and Acts 18:6.
2. What warning does Paul repeat and why (vv. 28-38)? How contemporary is this warning? What would protect the elders then and today?

Paul's Last Recorded Visit to Jerusalem

1. The Holy Spirit has repeatedly warned Paul of the danger that waits in Jerusalem (20:22-23; 21:4, 10-13). Does the Holy Spirit want Paul to go to Jerusalem or not? Why do believers often interpret the guidance of the Holy Spirit differently? What does this passage (vv. 1-14) reveal about the Holy Spirit? Discuss what is being said concerning Philip's daughters (vv. 8-9) and Agabus (vv. 10-11).
2. With what attitude does Paul respond to these warnings (vv. 20:24; 21:13)? Is Paul right or wrong to go to Jerusalem (vv. 11-14)?
3. Why do the leaders in Jerusalem want Paul to participate in the vow (vv. 20-26)? How would this promote the Gospel?
4. What were Paul's reasons for doing what he was asked? (See also 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 and Romans 14:13-15:3.) What does all of this teach about dealing with differences in the church today?
5. What accusations are brought against Paul (vv. 27-28)? Is there anything familiar about these accusations (vv. 27-39)? Is there anything new? What is the real issue behind all of this?