

## Lesson I.

## PAUL'S FAREWELL TO EPHESUS

April 5, 1903

Acts 20 : 28-38. Study vs. 17-38—Memory Verses, 31-34.

**Golden Text**—Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.—Acts 20 : 35.



28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

33 I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel.

34 Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me.

35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

36 And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.

37 And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him,

38 Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship.

## THE LESSON RETOLD

When Paul was on his last journey towards Jerusalem, his ship stopped for a short time at a place called Miletus. When the apostle knew that he would here have a few hours to spare, he sent a message to his old friends the elders of the church at Ephesus, which was near by, to come over to the harbor of Miletus to see him.

When they were all together they talked over all that had happened during the three years that Paul had once spent in preaching and teaching among them. And as they told of how their church had grown and prospered since he had first brought them the gospel, Paul said, "The church of God is like a great flock which the Lord has bought, not with money, but with His own blood.

"The believers are the lambs and sheep. The Lord Jesus is the Great Shepherd and

you elders are the under-shepherds appointed by God's Holy Spirit to feed and care for His flock.

"Your work will not be easy," said the apostle, "for I know that when I am gone false teachers shall come among you, seeking, like hungry wolves, to scatter and destroy the sheep.

"And worse even than this, some of the believers will lose faith in Christ and in so doing drag others into wrong-doing. Therefore watch and beware, so that none of these things shall take you by surprise. Let no one find you sleeping, but remember how, when I was among you, I warned every one of you night and day with tears. But not only was I faithful and watchful in teaching and preaching; you know also how, at the same time, I was not ashamed to be seen working with my hands for the support of