

Roman province, and was in communication with all its parts. *After what manner*, etc. Paul's words show that he had lived in the closest intimacy with his hearers; they had, therefore, the best possible opportunity to judge of his life and work. *All the time* (Rev. Ver.); on week days and Sundays: his practice backed up his preaching.

V. 19. *Serving the Lord*; counting it his highest honor to act as the servant of God and Christ (see Rom. 1: 1; Gal. 1: 10; Phil. 1: 1; Tit. 1: 1). *With all lowliness* (Rev. Ver.); the opposite of setting one's mind on "high things" (Rom. 12: 16); that is, seeking honor for oneself. (Compare Phil. 2: 3; Col. 3: 12; 1 Pet. 5: 5.) *With many tears*; so anxious had he been for their salvation. *With trials* (Rev. Ver.); opposition and persecution, which strained to the breaking point his temper and faith and courage. *By the plots of the Jews* (Rev. Ver.). Luke does not mention these plots in his account of Paul's ministry in Ephesus, but such conduct was like that of Jews elsewhere. (See 2 Cor. 11: 26.)

Vs. 20, 21. *Kept back nothing...profitable*; did not draw or shrink back out of fear, from telling the truth, however unpleasant, about their sin and need of salvation. *Publicly*; in the school of Tyrannus, ch. 19: 9. *From house to house*. Personal work was combined with public discourse. *Testifying*; proclaiming the need of: the apostle would prove this from the scriptures. *Both to Jews and to Greeks* (Rev. Ver.). Jews and Gentiles were alike sinners; and must be saved in the same way, Rom. 10: 12. *Repentance toward God*; the forsaking of sin and the entering into His service. *Faith toward...Jesus Christ*; trust in Him as Saviour and Lord.

Vs. 22-27. *Not knowing*, etc.; seeing the way only a step at a time, but ever moving on in obedience to his Master above and his conscience within. *Holy Ghost witnesseth*; Rev. Ver. "testifieth with me". More than once, on occasions not recorded by Luke, the Holy Spirit had warned Paul that he would have to endure imprisonment ("bonds") and sufferings ("afflictions"). (See also ch. 21: 4, 11.) *I hold not my life of any account* (Rev. Ver.); that is, in comparison with doing the will of his Lord, Phil. 1: 21. *Finish my*

course; likening himself to a racer pressing on to the goal. *Ministry...received of the Lord Jesus*. See ch. 9: 15, 16. *Pure from the blood of all men*. If they are not saved, the blame is not his. (Compare Ezek. 3: 18, 19.)

II. Tender Counsel, 28-35.

Vs. 28-30. *Take heed*. Up to this time, Paul, like a wise and faithful shepherd, had watched over "the flock" of God's people at Ephesus; now he gives them into the charge of the elders whom they had chosen from amongst themselves. *Unto yourselves*. They must be zealous in seeking their own salvation as well as in saving others, for they themselves, while shepherds, are also part of the flock. *Overseers*. See Light from the East. *Feed the church of God*; including both instruction in the truths of God's word and the government of the church, according to His laws. *Purchased with his own blood*; redeemed ("bought back") from the bondage of sin, with the price of His own blood shed upon the cross (see Eph. 1: 14, etc.). This passage has been generally taken as a proof that the early church fully accepted the divinity of Christ, for the words identify Jesus with God. Compare the redemption of Israel from the bondage of Egypt, Ps. 74: 2. *Shall grievous wolves enter*. Wolves were one of the dangers of every Eastern flock. They may picture here the open enemies of the church, its Jewish and Gentile persecutors, or perhaps false teachers (compare Matt. 7: 15). *Of your own selves*, etc. Later events proved how true these words were, for many teachers of false doctrines arose in the church at Ephesus. These are referred to in 1 Tim. 1: 20; 2 Tim. 2: 17; 3: 13.

Vs. 31, 32. *Therefore watch*; with the unsleeping alertness of true shepherds. *Remember*. Paul enforces his instructions by pointing to his own example. *Commend you to God*; with earnest prayer for His guiding and guarding. *Word of his grace*; His gracious promises. *Build you up*; into the strength and beauty of a perfect Christian character. *An inheritance*; of spiritual blessing for this world and the world to come. *Sanctified*; those whom God has made holy.

Vs. 33-35. *Coveted* (desired) *no man's silver, or gold*. The chief standard of action