

PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY  
LAST WORDS  
MAY 17, 2026



Last words can leave quite an impact on others

Paul had some last words for the elders of Ephesus as he was rounding up his third missionary journey.

Since his second journey, he has covered the most ground in this third journey.

- Started out visiting churches in Galatia and Phrygia (Acts 18:23)
- Went to Ephesus where he spoke to the 12 men about the baptism of Jesus Christ, then spent the next two years spreading the gospel and having conversations of debate (Acts 19:1-22)
- Paul's exploits caused disturbance and uproar to such a place where he realized he needed to move on. The commotion was caused by Demetrius.
- He then revisited Macedonia and Greece, then to Troas and back toward Miletus (Acts 20:1-17)

He felt a clear calling from the Lord that he was to go to Jerusalem (Acts 20:16)

When you have a clear calling, you must not sway to the right or the left

John G. Paton (1824-1907) was a missionary to the New Hebrides which is now Vanuatu off the coast of Australia.

Sometimes His calling makes no sense to us.

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."

**1. Live with Integrity (Acts 20:17-21)**

- Paul proclaimed that he declared not just in public, but house to house.
- Proverbs 10:9 - Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.

**2. Let Christ be your value (Acts 20:22-24)**

- There is a lot of main character energy out there.
- We don't give ourselves value, He gives us that value

**3. Discern the Wolves from the Sheep (Acts 20:25-32)**

- The word wolves is the Greek word lykos which they believe is a base to the Greek word lyke which means light or white
- 1 John 4:1 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

**4. Work hard, but Not for Personal Gain (Acts 20:33-38)**

- It is so easy to be a consumer, but God has called us to something greater, to give
- He is known as Jehovah Jireh "The Lord will Provide".

Read Acts 19:1-10

1. What do you believe is the difference John's Baptism and the Baptism of Jesus Christ?
2. It says in verse 9 that Paul took the disciples with him, what do you think he was preparing them for?

Read Acts 19:11-20

3. In verse 13, the exorcists say, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." What do you think is wrong about this statement?
4. Why didn't the evil spirits recognize these men?
5. Why should we be concerned about magic arts?

Read Acts 19:21-41

6. Why was Demetrius upset?
7. Observing this account, how should we as Christ followers respond something like riots or conflicts?
8. Paul left Ephesus because of the discord that was happening and to help those who were already discipling there, was this wise? What does this teach us?

Read Acts 20:1-16

9. Why do you believe Paul spoke for so long in verse 7?
10. Looking at the young man Eutychus who fell asleep, it is easy to want to judge him for possible laziness, why don't we see Paul do that and why shouldn't we?

Read Acts 20:17-38

11. Why do you think Paul started his speech to the elders of Ephesus by proclaiming what he has accomplished there?
12. Paul spoke of fierce wolves in verse 29, how do we see them today?

Read Acts 21:1-16

13. Why wasn't Paul afraid to be persecuted?

Read Acts 21:17-26

14. In verses 23-26 it seems that Paul follows a tradition of purification, why do you think that is? Who was he trying to reach with this action?