**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. October 22, 2017**

**Paul; A Surrendered Servant**

**ACTS 20**

**Key Truth:** We can be an effective witness for Christ in our world and a godly example in the lives of other believers.

1. Paul’s Example – He was All In!!

 A. He served the Lord with humility.

 B. He proclaimed the gospel with intentionality.

 C. He obeyed the Lord despite hostility aim at him.

 D. Paul felt a deep obligation to humanity to share the

 gospel.

 E. He refused to let hardships deter him from his

 mission.

2. Paul’s Encouragement to the Elders – Finish Well!

 A. Guard your spiritual life. 1 Tim 4:16

 B. Protect the flock of God.

 1. From outside attacks – Their purpose is to devour

 the flock.

 2. From inside attacks – Their purpose is to divide the

 flock.

3. Paul’s Ethical Behavior in Ministry – Live Well!

 A. He wasn’t motivated by material wealth and

 prosperity.

 B. He wasn’t lazy nor afraid to work with my own hands.

 C. Paul was a contributor to the needs of others not a

 consumer.

 1. A contributor seeks for ways to give and serve.

 2. A consumer seeks for ways to get more for less.

**Taking It Beyond the Walls:** Live a surrendered life to God, fulfill your ministry and leave a spiritual mark on the lives of others that can never be erased.

**CONNECTION GROUP HOMEWORK**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

What is one of the goals of encouragement, based on 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11? What does the opposite of that look like?

What does encouragement look like day in and day out in your relationships?

What metaphor did Paul use to describe the responsibility of the elders as spiritual leaders (vv. 25-31)? Why is the imagery of shepherd and sheep appropriate for godly leadership?

Read ACTS 20:26 and Ezekiel 33:1-6: Why do you think Paul used that phrase “innocent of the blood of all” to relate to his ministry of sharing the gospel?

Read Matthew 7:15-20: What is so dangerous about wolves in sheep’s clothing and how does Jesus say we will be able to identify them.

Read John 10:11-18: Why is the imagery of shepherd and sheep appropriate for godly leadership? What can we learn from Jesus’ example as our Good Shepherd?

We all have different ministry assignments and they all are important to God. How can we pray for and encourage you in your current ministry?