

## Acts 20:17-38

### I Must Go To Jerusalem

Blake's Chapel, January 11, 2009

Things I remember about the Wilmington Area

Eggnog Milkshake at McDonalds with Bobby Langston  
Quincy Steakhouse soft yeast rolls. The kind that melt in your mouth  
Dry Dock Seafood Buffett  
Flip's Hotdogs

Let's say that all of the places that I have mentioned have closed. My life has gone on. I have eaten at other places. I have gone on to face new challenges and accomplish other things. I have made met new people and have stored more memories.

### I Must Go To Jerusalem

#### Acts 20:17-21 ( NIV )

<sup>17</sup>From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church.

<sup>18</sup>When they arrived, he said to them: "You know *how I lived the whole time I was with you*, from the first day I came into the province of Asia.

[They saw Paul's character]

<sup>19</sup>*I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews.*

[They saw how Paul handled adversity in his life]

<sup>20</sup>You know that **I have not hesitated to preach** anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.

[They saw Paul's boldness]

<sup>21</sup>*I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that* they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

[They witnessed Paul's impartiality]

#### Acts 20:22-24 ( NIV )

<sup>22</sup>*"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.*

[They witnessed Paul's obedience]

<sup>23</sup>I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.  
<sup>24</sup>However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.

**Acts 20:29-31 ( NIV )**

<sup>29</sup>*I know that after I leave*, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock.  
<sup>30</sup>Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.  
<sup>31</sup>So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

**[They heard Paul’s concern]**

**Acts 20:36-38 ( NIV )**

<sup>36</sup>*When he had said this, he knelt down with all of them and prayed.*  
<sup>37</sup>*They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him.*  
<sup>38</sup>*What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.*

**[They felt Paul’s compassion]**

Pastor Buddy has left as Pastor. You have had a lot of great “spiritual food” with him and traveled many miles together in your “spiritual journey”. There is change coming for you and for Pastor Buddy.

Blake’s Chapel Church is now 96 years old. Is there anyone still alive who was part of the church starting? If the people who gathered in the home of Bob Chadwick in 1912 could only see today the ongoing results of their obedience and faithfulness to Christ, what would they think?

As Paul knew it was time for him to go to Jerusalem so it is time for you to move as well. The torch is being passed not only in pastoral leadership in this church but in other areas as well. How will Blake’s Chapel do? Just fine. That is, if you remember your foundation. The church is not built on a personality. The church is built and sustained by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. We are simply custodians of His work for a brief period of time.

Rise up, seize the moment, be the Church of Jesus Christ!

You are counting on Him  
And He Is Counting On You!