

Mitchell Morris

“A Gospel-Shaped Life”

Acts 20:13-27

March 22, 2026

Acts 20:13-27

13 We went on ahead to the ship and sailed for Assos, where we were going to take Paul on board, because these were his instructions, since he himself was going by land.

14 When he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went on to Mitylene. 15 Sailing from there, the next day we arrived off Chios. The following day we crossed over to Samos, and[c] the day after, we came to Miletus. 16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, because he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, for the day of Pentecost.

17 Now from Miletus, he sent to Ephesus and summoned the elders of the church. 18 When they came to him, he said to them, “You know, from the first day I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, 19 serving the Lord with all humility, with tears, and during the trials that came to me through the plots of the Jews. 20 You know that I did not hesitate to proclaim anything to you that was profitable and to teach you publicly and from house to house. 21 I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus.

22 “And now I am on my way to Jerusalem, compelled by the Spirit,[d] not knowing what I will encounter there, 23 except that in every town the Holy Spirit warns me that chains and afflictions are waiting for me. 24 But I consider my life of no value to myself; my purpose is to finish my course[e] and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God’s grace.

25 “And now I know that none of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will ever see me again. 26 Therefore I declare to you this day that I am innocent[f] of the blood of all of you, 27 because I did not avoid declaring to you the whole plan of God.

1 Thessalonians 2:8

We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

9 For I am the least of the apostles, not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

Acts 20:24

But I consider my life of no value to myself; my purpose is to finish my course[e] and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God's grace.

2 Timothy 4:6-8

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time for my departure is close. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 There is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me, but to all those who have loved his appearing.[a]

"It is not everything called 'gospel' which would produce such enthusiasm, or deserve it. For, my brethren, we have gospels nowadays which I would not die for, nor recommend anyone of you to live for...What is this gospel which Paul valued before his own life? It was called by him 'the gospel of the grace of God.' That which most forcibly struck the apostle in the gospel was that it was a message of grace, and of grace alone...The gospel is an announcement that God is prepared to deal with guilty man on the ground of free favour and pure mercy."

- Charles Spurgeon, *A Gospel Worth Dying For*, 1883

Life Group Discussion Questions:

- 1) What did God say to you through the Scripture during our Sunday gathering?
- 2) What's the hardest goodbye you've ever had to say? What made it so difficult?
- 3) Have you ever known that you had to do something, regardless of what it would cost you? What motivated you to do it?
- 4) Who is someone you have known whose life was decisively shaped by the gospel and therefore finished their race well? What did that look like?
- 5) What does gospel integrity look like in our lives today – seeing the gospel actually shape every part of our lives?
- 6) How does the gospel change our value system? How have you seen this in your life?
- 7) What part of your life might still need to be shaped (or reshaped) by the gospel?
- 8) How can your Life Group help you apply this passage to your life this week?