8th September, 2024 **Sungai Ara Gospel Hall**
 ***A Heart-to-Heart Message*** By KC Ung

Paul’s Farewell **C**ounsel to the **E**phesian **C**hurch **E**lders based on

his **E**xample of three years with them. (Acts 20:17-38)

1. **R**eview of **P**aul's **P**ast 3-year ministry in Ephesus. 18-21, **31**
2. **R**eference to the **P**resent situation then. 22-27
3. **R**esponsibilities of the **E**phesian **E**lders - 28-35 A **C**aution regarding the **C**are of the **C**hurch.

***Take heed*** *unto yourselves.* 20:28

*(prosechete* = guard, attend to, i.e. taking care of)

 ***Take heed****... to all the flock*

1. **Paul’s Counsel to The Elders of the Church.**  **Acts 20:17, 28**

 *From Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.*

1. Their **C**alling and **C**haracter – *Which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers* 20:28

 *The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he* ***desires*** *a noble task.*

1. Their **E**minence – ***desireth*** *a good work* Cf. I Tim. 3:1
2. Their **E**nablement – *Which the Holy Ghost hath made you* 20:28
3. Their **E**steem - I Thes. 5:12, ESV; Heb. 13:17
4. Their **C**ommission – They are **S**eniors (Elders) (***presbyteros***) – See #1 above
5. *Not a novice,* [neophytos = a recent convert, ESV] *lest being lifted up with pride*

*he fall into the condemnation of the devil.* I Tim. 3:6

1. They are **S**hepherds (***poimainō***) *feed the church of God* 20:28

From (***poimen***); to *tend* as a shepherd (or figurative *superviser*) :- feed , rule

1. They are **S**uperintendents (***episkopos*** = overseers; a superintendent, i.e. bishop, overseer.)

**3**. Their **C**ongregation. 20:28

1. The **P**ossessor of the **C**ongregation – *the* *church of God*
2. The **P**rice paid for the **C**hurch *– purchased with His own blood* (lit. by the blood of His own)

Cf. The **C**onscription of the **C**hurch **C**are **C**ommittee.

*Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily,*

*the* ***C****are of all the* ***C****hurches.* II Cor. 11:28

1. Their Necessity Cf. Num. 8:24-26
2. Their Duties. See #B & C below
3. **Paul’s Example in the Church**
4. His **C**haracter and **C**onsistency. 20:18, 19

*Ye know... from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you*

*at all seasons*

1. The **C**onfrontation and **C**onflicts. 20:19 *With many tears, and temptations* [trials], *which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews*
2. His **C**ommitment and **C**ondescension 20:19

*Serving the Lord* [serve = douleuō, from doulos = to *be a slave*]

(lit. or fig., involuntary or voluntary).

*with all humility of mind*

1. The **C**ommunication and **C**ommunion: 20:20, 21, 31

*And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you,*

*but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house*, *testifying*

a. Its **C**haracter

*"Showed"* announced = **R**ehearsed, **R**eported. 20:20

*"taught"* (*didaskō*) = instructed. 20:20

*"testifying"* (*diamartyromai*) = to witness from "martyr." 20:21

*"Warn"* (*noutheteō*) = to admonish, **R**eprove. 20:31
*Therefore watch, and* ***R****emember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.*

b. Its **C**hannel *–* **P**ublicly and **P**rivately *from house to house* 20:20

c. Its **C**ontents:

*"repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ"* 20:21

 *"the gospel of the grace of God"* 20:24

*"kingdom of God"* 20:25

**5. His Courage and His Course.** 20:22-24

1. ***N****ot knowing the things that shall befall me there... saying that bonds and afflictions abide me...*
2. ***N****one of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself,*

*so that I might finish my course* cf. II Tim. 4:7

1. The **C**ontinuation and **C**ompassion of his ministry.
2. *That by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day* 20:31
3. *I ceased not to warn everyone... with tears.* 20:31
4. The **C**ommunication of the Gospel:
5. *preach* (16:10), *proclaim/declare* (v. 27) (from *anangellō =* announce)
6. *taught* (from *didaskō* = "teach," v. 20);
7. *testifying* (v. 21, 24, 26), from *diamartyromai* = "solemnly bear witness to"
8. His **C**lear **C**onscience:
9. *I am pure from the blood of all men.* 20:26
10. *I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel* 20:33
11. *Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities* 20:34

**C. Paul’s Exhortation to the Elders and the Church. Acts 20:28-32, 35**

1. **The Caution Concerning false teachers. 20:29-31**

*After my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock, also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch…*

1. Their **P**urpose – *draw away disciples after them* (30)
2. The **P**eriod – a*fter my departing* (29)
3. Their **P**erson *–*
4. From Out**side**: *grievous wolves enter in among you* (29)
5. From In**side**: *also of your own selves shall men arise* (30)
6. The **P**recaution – *I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears* (31)
7. The **C**are for the Elders. 20:32

*I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up,*

*and to give youan inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*

1. He **C**ommended them to the Word of **G**od, and to the word of His **G**race.
2. It can **E**mpower them – *which is able to build you up*
3. It can **E**nrich them *– and to give you an inheritance\*
4. The **C**are for the Church - *Give* 20:34, 35
*"I have shown you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak,*
*and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus*
5. The **E**nergy in Giving – *labouring*
6. The **E**dict for Giving – *ye ought*
7. The **E**mployment for the Giving – *to support the weak*
8. The **E**xamples of Giving: *I have shown you*
9. Paul’s example – 20:34

*These hands have ministered to my necessities, and to them that were with me*

1. Jesus’ example – 20:35

*The Lord Jesus, how He said,* ***It is more blessed to give than to receive.***

1. **Paul’s Exit after the Counselling. Acts 20:36-38**
2. The **P**raying with Paul –

*When he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.* 20:36

1. The **P**assion for Paul – *They all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him,*

*sorrowing most of all... that they should see his face no more* 20:37, 38

1. 3. The **P**artnership with Paul – *They accompanied him unto the ship.* 20:38

**The Church in Ephesus**

1. Their **W**onderful **F**irst Love and how they lost it. Rev. 2:4

*Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*

1. **C**ompare the Epistle **W**ritten to them. Ephesians
2. **C**ompare the **W**orks of the **C**hurch: Revelation 2:2-3
3. **C**hrist **C**ommended them: **C**t. the **C**hurch in Thessalonica: **I Th. 1:3**

*I know thy works,* vs. *your* ***work******of faith***

*and thy labour,* vs. *and* ***labour******of love***

*and thy patience* vs. *and* ***patience******of hope*** *in our Lord JC*

1. The **F**arewell Warnings. Acts 20:17-38; Rev. 2:1-7
2. Their **F**all – Ephesus a Ruin today.