

**Tough and Tender,**  
**or, The Balanced Christian Personality**  
**"The Life of Paul" episode 34**  
**Acts 20:13-31**

The church of Ephesus was Paul's #1 church, and it is treated as the model church-- a miniature of God's work in the world. Paul's goodbye message to the Ephesian elders in ch. 20 is Paul's only sermon that Luke preserves for us, and it's a sermon for the ages --the model message by the model pastor to the model church. Luke summarizes it in a "reflecting mirror pattern" (called *chiasm*), which uncovers its major themes:

- A 19a with tears I served the Lord the whole time
- B 19b opposition: Jewish plots
- C 20 I have not held back from declaring to you
- D 21 witnessing to both Jews and Greeks
- E 22-23 And now behold...I am going...not knowing
- F 24 My goal: finish the job God gave me!
- E' 25 And now behold...I know...I went about
- D' 26 I witness to you that I am clean of the blood of all men
- C' 27 I have not held back from declaring to you
- B' 28-31 opposition: wolves
- A' 31b with tears I warned the flock for three years

1. T \_\_\_\_\_ --toward God and the flock. A/A' 19a, 31b

*but at the same time...*

2. T \_\_\_\_\_ --toward enemies of God and the flock. B/B' 19b, 28-31a

3. \_\_\_\_\_ ressive --toward the will of God. CD/C'D' 20-21, 26-27

*but at the same time...*

4. \_\_\_\_\_ missive --before the person of God. EFE' 22-25