



**Topeka Bible Church**  
**The Life of Paul, Episode 34:**  
**“Psychology of the Christian Leader”**  
**Community Group Study Questions**  
**Acts 20:13-31 and selected passages**

1. Using a Bible Atlas (or at least the maps found in your Bible), trace Paul and Luke’s travels in *Acts 20:13-17*. Why was Paul in a hurry to get to Jerusalem by Pentecost (*Acts 20:16; Romans 15:25*)?
  
2. Why would Paul send for the Ephesian elders from Miletus rather than going to Ephesus himself (*Acts 20:16-17*)? How did Paul model tenderness towards the Ephesians church (*Acts 20:19; cf. 2 Corinthians 2:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:7-8*)?
  
3. At the same time, how did Paul model toughness towards his enemies and the flock at Ephesus as well (*Acts 20:20-21; cf. 1 Corinthians 3:1-3; 2 Corinthians 10:1-2; Romans 1:16; Galatians 1:9-10*)? Why is this important for the leadership of any church to do?
  
4. Could you say what Paul said in *Acts 20:22-23* (*cf. 9:15-16*)? How difficult would this be to know that suffering awaited you? How did Paul respond and how is his response an incredible model to us (*Acts 20:24; 2 Timothy 4:6-8*)?

5. Imagine if you were the Ephesian elders, knowing that you would never see Paul again (Acts 20:25)? How do Paul's words demonstrate his undying commitment to carrying out the work that God set before him to do (Acts 20:26-27; 1 Corinthians 9:23-27)?
  
6. Why might Paul need to warn these elders in Acts 20:28-31 (2 Peter 5:1-2; Matthew 7:15)? How do elders serve a similar function today (We'll learn more on this topic in a few weeks)? Do you see evidence for the doctrine of the Trinity in verse 28? Explain.
  
7. Notice Paul's repetition of his "tears" for the Ephesian elders and their church (Acts 20:19 and 31). Why is this sincerity so important for church leaders to express? How can a lack of this sincerity hinder a leaders' effectiveness for Christ (2 Corinthians 2:17)?

**Memory Verse:**

**"But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God."**

**(Acts 20:24, NASB)**