



Principles of Effective Ministry

"And after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto him the disciples, and embraced them, and departed for to go into Macedonia" (Acts 20:1).

Bulletin VCAT65

08 January 2025

"And after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto him the disciples, and embraced them, and departed for to go into Macedonia. 2 And when he had gone over those parts, and had given them much exhortation, he came into Greece, 3 And there abode three months. And when the Jews laid wait for him, as he was about to sail into Syria, he purposed to return through Macedonia. 4 And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus. 5 These going before tarried for us at Troas. 6 And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days. 7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. 8 And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together. 9 And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. 10 And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. 11 When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed. 12 And they brought

"... Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed" (Acts 20:10-11).

the young man alive, and were not a little comforted" (Acts 20:1-12).

Paul demonstrated many principles of effective ministry in his missions, including:

1. Commitment to Encouragement


Paul's ministry was marked by his commitment to strengthening and encouraging believers. After the uproar in Ephesus, he continued to offer much exhortation. *"And after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto him the disciples, and embraced them, and departed for to go into Macedonia. And when he had gone over those parts, and had given them much exhortation, he came into Greece" (Acts 20:1-2).*

2. Perseverance Through Adversity

Paul faced many dangers and adversities, yet he remained steadfast in his mission. *"And there abode three months. And when the Jews laid wait for him, as he was about to sail into Syria, he purposed to return through Macedonia" (Acts 20:3).*

3. Leadership and Teamwork

Paul's ability to lead and work with others is evident as he travelled with a team of companions. *"And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Be-*



rea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus" (Acts 20:4).

4. Adherence to Divine Timing

Paul and his companions observed God's timing, particularly during the days of unleavened bread. *"And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days"* (Acts 20:6).

5. Diligence in Teaching

Paul was diligent in teaching and preaching, even to the point of exhaustion. *"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight"* (Acts 20:7).

6. Compassion and Miracles

Paul's ministry was marked by compassion, as seen when he revived Eutychus. *"And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him"* (Acts 20:9-10).

7. Reviving the Faithful

Paul's actions brought life and reassurance to the believers. *"When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed"* (Acts 20:11).

8. Resilience and Resourcefulness

Despite setbacks, Paul continued his journey and ministry with resilience. *"And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted"* (Acts 20:12).

9. Selflessness and Dedication

Paul's selfless dedication to the ministry, even at personal cost, sets an example for all. *"I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20:35).

10. Faith and Obedience

Paul's unwavering faith and obedience to God's calling were the bedrock of his effective ministry. *"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God"* (Acts 20:24).

The adoption of these principles enabled Paul to finish his ministry with joy and receive a crown of righteousness in Heaven. He has finished his course on earth and went to glory, but we are still on it.

What Paul experienced in Ministry is not peculiar to him alone, but rather what all true believers will encounter. If our desire is to finish well, and make heaven at last, we need to humbly pray for the grace and courage to ruggedly face the challenges of life and those orchestrated by Satan, the adversary with fortitude and faith. The God who stood with Paul, will stand with us, and we too shall win!