

FCFTucson.org
Sunday, February 10, 2019
Write This Down

TEXT: Acts 20:26-32 NLT I declare today that I have been faithful. If anyone suffers eternal death, it's not my fault, (27) for I didn't shrink from declaring all that God wants you to know. (28) "So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock—His church, purchased with His own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders. (29) I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. (30) Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following. (31) Watch out! Remember the three years I was with you—my constant watch and care over you night and day, and my many tears for you. (32) "And now I entrust you to God and the message of His grace that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those He has set apart for Himself.

This will be my last Sunday morning sermon as Senior Pastor, and there are just a few things I want to be sure you hear. Watching you grow is a joy. Watching you struggle is painful. Watching you fail and fall back is maddening and almost intolerable sometimes. Life is difficult in a fallen world filled with fallen people, but we have resources. Use them!

- 1) God is good.
 - a) Psalms 107:1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. (and at least 12 more in the OT)
 - b) Matthew 7:7-11 Stay plugged in to the Father heart of God.
 - c) John 10:10 – Remember who the enemy is.
 - d) James 1:17 – Don't be deceived.
- 2) Truth matters.
 - a) John 17:17 NLT Make them holy by Your truth; teach them Your word, which is truth.
 - b) 2 Timothy 4:1-4. Seek truth or be deceived.
- 3) Live out of the spirit, not the circumstances
 - a) Eph 6:12 – people are not the problem. Pray for them. Love them. Don't allow their failures (or yours) to taint your faith or your love. John 2:23-25
 - b) Circumstances come and go. Truth doesn't. The battle is always won in the spirit first, then the circumstances change. Start on the inside and work out.

- i) 2 Corinthians 4:18 MSG There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.
 - ii) 2 Corinthians 5:7 NLT For we live by believing and not by seeing.
- 4) Emotions are not truth. 1 Thessalonians 5:23
 - a) Spirit – Born Again John 3:3-8
 - b) Body – 1 Corinthians 9:27
 - c) Soul – mind, will and emotions.
 - i) Renew your mind, Roman 12:2
 - ii) consecrate your will, Mark 14:36
 - iii) Your emotions are a reaction to circumstances. Be aware of the source of your emotions: Emotions may be sense-based or spirit-based. Matthew 26:38,41 / 2 Peter 2:8
Luke 1:46-47 / Philipians 4:7 / Mark 14:33,34,38
 - 5) You're not as smart as you think you are – Get under authority
 - a) Hebrews 13:7-9, 17. Choose well, make them happy. You are in good hands.
 - b) 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13. Know them and esteem them.
 - 6) Be part of the minority – don't go through life damaged.
 - a) Mark 4:13-20. 25% go on to some level of fruitfulness.
 - b) Luke 17:12-19. Only one in 10 gets whole.
 - c) **I'm begging you, do what you must to be whole.**

After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when He returns? It is you! Yes, you are our pride and joy.

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 NLT