For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. —Acts 20:16 ESV



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<sup>17</sup>Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. <sup>18</sup>And when they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia,

19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; 20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house.

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<sup>21</sup>testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup>And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup>except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.

<sup>24</sup>But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. <sup>25</sup>And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again." —Acts 20:17-25 ESV

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<sup>36</sup>And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. <sup>37</sup>And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, <sup>38</sup>being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship. —Acts 20:36-38 ESV

Gospel-Centered Relationships Focus on...

Serving the Lord With Humility
and Intensity Acts 20:18-19

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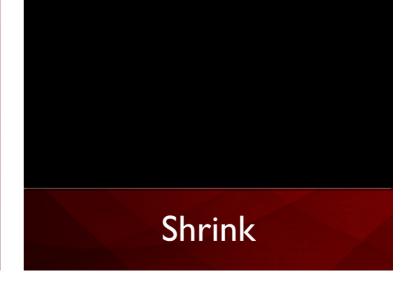
Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

—I Corinthians 4:2 ESV

"When the preferences of the church members are greater than their passion for the Gospel, the church is dying." —Thom Rainer

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"The more you are driven by what others owe you rather than by what you owe them in love and service, the less lowly you are." —John Piper



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Gospel-Centered Relationships Focus on...

Speaking Truth With Honesty
and Love Acts 20:20-21

"...declaring to you anything that was profitable..." —Acts 20:20a ESV

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Two Words: Repentance and Faith "You can't be saved until you turn from sin; salvation has got to be changing your mind from living unto sin to living unto God. That is what it is; it is conversion." —John MacArthur

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"Telling people to believe without calling people to repent is dishonest.

Jesus is not an accessory to your salvation; He is the absolute necessity because of your condition before God apart from His saving work for us."

"I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

—Luke 13:3 ESV

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## Repentance is...

- An Intellectual Thing
- An Emotional Thing
- A Volitional Thing

Faith is commitment to, dependence upon and hope in Christ's work for us.

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By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. —Hebrews 11:7 ESV

Gospel-Centered Relationships Focus on...
Striving Amid Uncertainty and
Adversity Acts 20:22-24

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But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.—Acts 20:24 ESV

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

—2 Timothy 4:7 ESV

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