

L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N

- 1) In Acts 20, we see Paul's commitment to obey God's leading in his life, even if it meant that he would face death. What do you think hinders Christians from having this same kind of commitment today?

- 2) Picture the following situation: A young couple gives a testimony during worship this week about a recent mission trip to the Middle East. In that testimony, they share about God's leading for them to be full-time missionaries in that area of the world. Then, they read a recent government issued threat to kill any foreigners who try to spread Christianity in their country. The couple knows that if they go to this country, they may face death.

How do you think people would respond to their desire to go to this country as missionaries?
What advice would you give them?

- 3) What is the greatest danger you face this week if you share the gospel with someone?

For Further Discussion: *End of the Spear* is a movie based on the true story of a group of Christian missionaries in Ecuador who were murdered when they set out to reach the Wadani tribe. Watch this DVD as a Small Group and talk about what these men sacrificed and what was gained by their loss.

SERMON SERIES: THE CHURCH'S CHALLENGE

Sermon Message: The Challenge of Selflessness

October 11, 2009

Dr. Jason Pettus



Today's Scripture Reading: Psalm 135:5-6

Next Week: Act 21:1-36

**THE CALL OF CHRIST IS TO LOSE YOURSELF TO JESUS SO
YOU CAN _____.**

UNTIL WE ABANDON SELF, WE CAN NEVER FULFILL

Acts 20:24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

NOTE: Be sure and check out Pastor Jason's blogspot at pastorjasonpettus.blogspot.com. Check for updates every Monday. You can post comments and ask questions about what you've read, heard, and discussed.

A copy of today's message will be available at the kiosk in the lobby immediately following the service. Suggested donation for tapes or CDs is \$2. First time guests get today's tape/CD free by turning in your guest card at the Welcome Center.

This study guide is a resource for your Small Group to use for further study about today's sermon. If you need to find a Small Group, please contact Richard Carwile at rcarwile@lhbg.org or 843-9462. You can view a list of our Small Groups at www.livinghopewired.com.

O V E R V I E W

1) This past week, Pastor Jason preached from Acts 20; "The Challenge of Selflessness". What did you learn from his message?

2) In Acts 20:17-38, Paul shares that God has called him to go to Jerusalem and that he knows he will be imprisoned for preaching the gospel there.

Do you think God still calls Christians to go to dangerous places for the sake of the gospel today? Can you think of a modern day example?

A C C L O S E R L O O K

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Read Acts 20:17-38 and discuss the following questions:

- 1) According to verses 22-24, Paul knows that danger awaits him in Jerusalem, yet he still committed to go there. Why is he so resolved to go to Jerusalem?
- 2) Before leaving, Paul gives the elders of the church in Ephesus a warning (see verses 28-31). What does he warn them about?
- 3) Based on the reaction we see in verse 36-38, how would you describe the relationship Paul had with the elders of the church in Ephesus?
- 4) Paul follows God's call and goes to Jerusalem and preaches the gospel. Read Acts 21:30-33. What happens to Paul when he preaches the gospel in Jerusalem?