



EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Acts 13 – 26 Sermon Series

Supports Session 10: Commit

Sermon Title: “The Basics We Can Never Forget” (Acts 20:32)

Connection to Session 10

Paul’s farewell to the leaders of Ephesus encourages believers today to serve Jesus well. The summary verse of the text serves as the base for this message, a practical explanation of what it means to serve well.

Introduction/Opening

Many children in America learn the basics of reading by first learning the “A-B-C song.” Through repetition and trial and error, children learn each letter by singing it. These are the basics of the English language. When the alphabet is learned, reading becomes easier. Then children learn to “sound out” each word, letter by letter.

In the same way, Christians need to commit to the basics of their spiritual upbringing. All spiritual work begins with the basics. And every Christian, no matter how long he or she has been a believer, needs to remain focused on the Word of God.

In Paul’s farewell to Ephesus in Acts 20:18-32, he provided basic truths we can never forget.

Outline

Never Forget.

1. The Word saves (Acts 20:32a)

- a. Run to His grace.
 - i. Paul encouraged the church to run to His grace, as seen in the Scriptures.
 - ii. We see God’s grace through God’s gospel:
 1. Romans 10:17
 2. Romans 16:25-27
 3. 1 Corinthians 1:17-18, 22-24
 4. 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
- b. Run to His salvation.
 - i. The Word shows us God’s grace, which is the gospel, so that we can be saved.
 - ii. Everything begins with the commitment to follow Christ. Don’t miss this.

2. The Word sanctifies (Acts 20: 32b)

- a. Sanctification is the continued growth in Christ.

- i. The saved are sanctified by the Spirit. In 1 Peter 1:1-2a, Peter encouraged believers to devote themselves to the study of the Word of God.
 - ii. Believers are given the task of teaching others (2 Tim. 2:1-2).
 - iii. Salvation begins the journey, while sanctification continues the journey to be more and more like Christ (Rom. 8:29-30).
- b. Sanctification helps us appreciate and live in God's grace.
 - i. Psalm 1:1-3
 - ii. Ephesians 4:1
 - iii. Colossians 1:10

3. The Word sustains (Acts 20:32c)

- a. God sustains those who are His.
 - i. The salvation and the sanctification of the believer allow the believer to persevere (Jas. 1:25).
 - ii. The one who perseveres will see Christ in all His victory (Rev. 2:1-3:22).
- b. God gives His Kingdom to those who are His.
 - i. Galatians 3:29
 - ii. Ephesians 3:6
 - iii. Titus 3:4-7

Conclusion

Never forget these things. Be committed to seeing God's grace in His Word. Be saved by it. Grow in it. And use it to sustain yourself and build up others. By committing to these principles, you as the church will be strengthened.

Stay true to God by keeping the main thing, the main thing. This will result in people being changed forever, the world being reached through the gospel, and Christ being honored and glorified.

Dr. Fran Trascritti (PhD, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) serves as the Lead Pastor of Beacon Church, a revitalization work taking place in the West Side of Cincinnati, Ohio. He has almost thirty years of ministry experience in churches and denominational service. Fran and his wife, Teresa, live in Cincinnati, where they enjoy time with their kids and awesome thirteen grandkids.

All Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible, Copyright 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers.