

Theme: Our *last* words should be a reflection of the words and walk of our entire lives in Christ – for God’s Word of Life never changes.

Introduction: Marine Corps Marathon today – the goal?

Background:

1. “A day in the life of the Apostle Paul”
2. Gathering the elders – One Last Time!!

I. A Consistent Ministry - Word and Life

- A. “You know....” how I lived
 - Humilty
 - Tears & trials/testings
- B. “You know....” how and what I taught you
 - An unchanging message
 - In public and in private
 - *Repentance and Faith*
- C. “You know....” the example I set. (vv.33-35)
 - Giving of himself

II. An Urgent Plea

- A. “I don’t know....”What will happen in Jerusalem.
- B. “I know....” What service to Christ means.
 - Sufferings that will surely come
 - *Finish the race!*
- C. “I Know....” you will not see me again.
- D. “I know....” I am innocent of your blood. (Ezekiel 33:1-9)
 - He has sounded the trumpet!
 - Hasn’t hesitated to proclaim the whole will/counsel of God.

III. *The Call to Vigilance!* 28-35

- A. Keep watch! v.28
 - a. Watch yourselves!!!
 - b. Watch over the flock.
 - Be shepherds
 - That flock is "The Church of God"
- B. Be on your guard!
 - a. Danger from outside the church
 - b. Dangers from within
- C. Be Alert!
 - Paul never stopped sounding the warning!

IV. *A Ministry of Love*

- The parting

V. *Conclusion/Application*

1. Strive for consistency in our walk and words.
2. Live our lives with the sense of urgency – with the end in sight.
3. Pursue vigilance in maintaining the truth in heart and life.
4. What will our last words be?