

**Paul's Parting Words**  
**Part 4: Gifted to Give**  
**Acts 20:32-38**

**Keywords and Phrases\***

Blessed (v. 35)  
Commend (v. 32)  
Give (vv. 32, 35)  
Grace (v. 32)  
Inheritance (v. 32)  
Lord Jesus (v. 35)  
Weak (v. 35)

\*Keywords may vary depending on Bible translation

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**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. According to Paul what specifically was God going to do for the Ephesian elders through “the word of his grace” (see Acts 20:32; Colossians 1:12; 2:7; 3:24; Ephesians 1:14; Hebrews 9:15)?
2. Why was it critical for Paul to remind the elders that he had not coveted their silver, gold, or apparel (see Acts 20:33)? How does this affect your understanding of other New Testament passages that speak of apparel (see 1 Timothy 2:9; James 2:2)?
3. How does understanding the historical background of Acts enhance our comprehension of Acts 20:35 (see Acts 2:42-46; 4:32-35; 6:1-6, etc.)?
4. What is the significance of Paul following the teaching of the Lord Jesus by his example of helping the weak (see Matthew 10:8; Acts 20:35)?

**Analyzing the Scripture**

**Paul**

- Commended the elders to God (v. 32)
  - And the word of his grace (v. 32)
    - To be built up (v. 32)
    - And receive an inheritance among the saints (v. 32).
- Did not covet anyone's silver, gold, or apparel (v. 33)
  - Worked to provide for his necessities (v. 34)
- Set the example to help the weak (v. 35)
  - As the Lord taught (v. 35)
- Knelt and prayed with the elders (v. 36)

**The Ephesian Elders**

- Expressed affection and sorrow over Paul leaving (vv. 37-38).

*"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'"*  
*(Acts 20:35 ESV)*

**Reflection Question**

Paul emphasizes his self-sufficiency, hard work, and the importance of supporting the weak. How can this balance between self-care and caring for others be maintained?