

VOYAGER

Experiences That Shape Our Faith

About the Series: Experiences are powerful and can shape our Christian faith. But experiences should not be what defines our faith. Rather, it should serve to strengthen our faith and affirm what we already know to be the facts of our faith as recorded in the Scriptures. In this sermon series, we explore the journeys of Apostle Paul and how encountering life-changing experiences can teach valuable life lessons to voyagers like us who are on a journey called life.

Part 12

A Lifelong Investment

Acts 20:1-16 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

DISCUSS

The decisions we make today in how we live our lives will reverberate throughout eternity. As followers of Jesus Christ, we must make three spiritual investment decisions so that we will succeed in this life and have one that is celebrated as approved by God.

Spiritual Investment Decision #1: Who will you invest your time with? (v. 1-6)

The people you choose to invest your time with will either negatively or positively impact you even if you don't notice it at first.

- What did the Apostle Paul do to the people when he went to the regions of Macedonia and Greece?
- How did he make an impact in their lives?
- What qualities should we look for when we are looking for a friend we want to invest our time in?

Spiritual Investment Decision #2: How deep is your commitment to God? (v. 7-8)

Commitment is not just a choice, it is a mindset. When we commit to something, we must be intentional about our actions and thoughts.

- What did Paul and his delegation do when they gathered at Troas?
- How long were they gathered? What does that show us about the people's commitment to God?
- What common factors hinder people from growing deeper in their commitment to God?
- Honestly evaluate your own commitment to God. What does it say about your relationship with Him?

Spiritual Investment Decision #3: What will you prioritize in your schedule? (v. 13-16)

In the "real world," there are many worthwhile endeavors to do in any given period of time. But at the end of the day one has to wisely choose how we will prioritize our schedule. Everyone is given 24 hours a day to live their lives and you determine how you will choose to fill those 24 hours.

- How much time do you allot to spiritual things?
- If you say you love God and your relationship with Jesus is the most important thing in your life, how does that translate into your daily and weekly schedule?
- How does a person's priority reflect on his schedules?
- How do you properly set your life's priorities?

REFLECT

There are important decisions you must make today to ensure that you get the best results you are looking for later on in life, especially when you retire.

- What type of person do you want to be 10, 20, 30 years from now?
- How do you define success and how do you finish well?
- What spiritual investments are you making now that will reap abundant blessings and rewards later?

PRAY

Our gracious and loving Heavenly Father, I come before You with a humble heart, seeking wisdom and guidance as I consider making spiritual investments in my life, just as the believers in Acts 20:1-16 did. Like the apostle Paul who invested himself in nurturing and edifying the early

Christian communities, help me to have a clear vision and a deep understanding of the spiritual investments I am called to make. Give me discernment to recognize the areas where you are calling me to invest my time and talents for the sake of Your kingdom. Lord, I ask for Your help and wisdom to make wise choices in my spiritual investments. Help me to make an impact on the lives of those around me, to be an agent of positive change in my community and circles of influence, and to bring glory and honor to Your holy name. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.