



“Final Words of Blessing from a Shepherd’s Heart”

Acts 20: 32

Today’s message is based on the apostle Paul’s final words to the spiritual leaders (friends) as he was leaving to pursue God’s mission to Jerusalem (Vs.22-24). Paul’s purpose was to *“finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God’s grace.”* Paul’s final words were filled with emotion (V.37), because of the deep love he had for his friends, and they had towards him.

The Lord’s calling of me ‘to’ Sarasota Baptist Church as the Lead Pastor means his calling ‘from’ you at Roswell Street Baptist Church. Paul’s words in Verse 32 express my prayer for you –

“And now I entrust you to God and the message of His grace that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those He has set apart for Himself.”

These words are filled with *approval, acknowledging them for the kind of people they were; affirming their character & expressing his gratitude for being in a relationship with them.* As I reflect on my season of ministry among you, my heart is filled with gratitude, approval, and affirmation for the loving people you are.

ENTRUST = means to ‘*entrust something to someone with the intention of preservation*’ (same word used in [2 Timothy 2: 2](#))

As your transitioning Shepherd, I ENTRUST You to the following:

1. – **Entrust You to _____ the Real God.** *“I entrust you to God...”*

The Real God loves you! – see [Isaiah 30: 18](#); [Zephaniah 3: 17](#); [Luke 19: 5-6](#)

You can only love the Real God with all Your heart! –grateful, listening & yielded heart.

Encounter Jesus – *“Mary sat at the Lord’s feet.. listening to what He said.... One thing is necessary: Mary has made the right choice...”* – [Luke 10: 38 – 42](#). Lead your heart to daily sit at Jesus’ feet.

2. – **Entrust You to _____ His Word.** *“the Word of His grace”*

James 1:22 – *“But **be doers of the Word** and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”*

Ask yourself – *What Bible verse did I do today?*

3. – **Entrust You to _____ People.** *“all those He has set apart for Himself”*

1 Peter 4:8 *“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly (deeply, fervently, constantly), since love covers a multitude of sins.”*

How do you see people? Like ‘trees walking’ or seeing everyone clearly (both alone & fallen) – See **Mark 8: 22 – 25**

4. – **Entrust You to _____ His Mission.** *“set apart for God’s purpose”*

What is God’s purpose for which He has set you apart? – see **Luke 10: 2**

BEYOND THE SERMON Challenges:

- **DISCUSS** today’s sermon with a partner or a group. Which of the 4 points do you desire to give greater attention? What steps will you take this week?
- **COMMIT TO MEMORY** **Acts 20: 32** and devote yourself daily to reading the Scripture and reflecting by writing prayer responses in a journal.
- **Set the ALARM** on your phone to go off at **10: 02 A.M.** & daily pray **Luke 10: 2**.
- **PRAY** for the leadership transition for the Lord to preserve the unity of the church, guide in the selection of the ‘Lead Pastor Search Committee,’ and guard from false teaching (see 28- 31).