

# I Commend You To God

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[ 0 : 00 ] Hallelujah! And thank you for tuning into this message by David Entry at Karis Church. As we journey in this season of great awakening, may God pour fresh life into you through His! and align you more deeply with His purpose.

Acts chapter 20, reading from verse 28. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He has purchased with His own blood.

For I know this, that after my departure shall grievous wolves enter among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after themselves.

Therefore watch and remember that by the space of three years, I cease not to warn everyone night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

I have coveted no man's silver or gold or april. Yea, ye yourselves know that these hands have ministered unto my necessity and to them that were with me.

[ 1 : 31 ] I have shielded you all things, how that so liberating ye ought to support the weak. And to remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, how He said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

And when He had thus spoken, He kneeled down and prayed with them all. And they all wept sore and fell on Paul's neck and kissed Him.

Sorrowing most of all for the words which He spake, that they should see His face no more. And they accompanied Him unto the ship.

Here is the reading of God's word. Father, thank you. We pray that you visit us by your word. In different shapes and forms. And visit us in your own way.

Everyone under the sound of my voice. I pray that give us access and encounters into your goodness and your power. In Jesus name. Amen.

[ 2 : 37 ] Amen. Hallelujah. If you remember very well in our previous teachings, I spoke about when Paul called the leaders of the Church of Ephesus.

In his speaking to them, he focused on six major things. He focused on his mission. In verse 18 to 21, he focused on his vision. That's his purpose in the verse 22 to 24.

And he focused on his commission. That's the charge he gave them in the verse 26 and 27. And then we saw in our last teaching, he focused on his admonition, his encouragement.

So in the verse 20, he says that, therefore, take it to yourself. He charged them that two things you should watch. Watch yourself and watch the congregation. Okay.

So he was talking to church leaders, two main assignments. So long as they are, what they are supposed to do. So long as God is concerned. Number one, watch yourself and then watch the flock.

[ 3 : 48 ] So take it to yourself. Don't ignore your spiritual shape. Your spiritual shape will determine how well you fulfill your destiny.

Shape. S standing from your spiritual gift. H standing from your heart condition. A standing from your natural abilities.

Everybody has some abilities. All those things are meant to be used for God. Your natural abilities. B stands for your personality. Not all of us are happy clappy.

Some are calm. Some are. So all your personality is needed by God. Or God created you in a particular way to use you for your assignment.

And then your E, the E is your experiences and education. Sometimes you have some bad experiences with people. Some good experiences. Happy moments. Nice moments. Your education.

[ 4 : 45 ] Your exposure. All those things come together. All things work together. They come together for God using you to fulfill his purpose. So a church leader must mind your shape.

Mind your shape. And then he says that the flock. So take it to yourself. Enter the flock. And it made them aware that it's not your flock.

But it's God's sheep. All right. So the church of God is the church of God. And we delve into that extensively. And we even went into the blood of God as well.

And that took us into Easter. And he said, why am I saying these things to you? Because the verse 29 tells us, for I know. I know this. It's not something I'm guessing.

I know. That's how life works. That's how life works. He said, I know. And I don't think he was predicting. He wasn't predicting. He just knew it was by experience and by sensibility.

[ 5 : 43 ] He knew that this is how life works. After my departure. He said, I know this. After my, when I'm here, things will be okay. But when I leave, the church will be exposed to certain things.

And so he said, I know. I'm telling you to take heed to yourself and to the church. Because I know after my departure, number one, he said, grievous wolves.

Wolves. Wolves eat sheep. Grievous wolves will enter in. How did they get in?

They managed to find their ways. Jesus himself said in the book of Matthew, chapter 7, verse 15, beware of false prophets, which come to you.

How did they come? So they have to look like you. They talk like you. They dance like you. Their songs you like, they also seem to like it.

[ 6 : 46 ] Their nature is wolf. But their appearance is sheep. Now, Jesus said this. They are false prophets. They come in sheep's clothing.

But inwardly, they are ravaging wolves. By the time you realize, what has happened to this sister, this brother who has been on fire, the wolf.

They have joined the ashes. They have joined the choir. In certain churches, there are wolves in leadership. So it says that, Jesus said, false prophets, they will come.

They are wolves. And then Matthew 10, 16. He said, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves. Now, watch this. The difference between these wolves and the other wolves in Matthew, chapter 7, verse 15.

These wolves are just outside. But Matthew 7, 15, they have entered. They are inside. Even the ones outside are so dangerous.

[ 7 : 54 ] Their greatest risk to a sheep is wolf. And so the shepherds normally protect the sheep from wolves. From the ones outside. So they have this rod when the wolves are coming. Fight the wolf of now when they come in.

And sometimes, you look at this one. It doesn't bleed. You've always thought it's a sheep. Because sometimes after a while, you can spot and sense the mannerisms of wolves who look like sheep.

When you are young, when you start afraid, you don't notice them.

You think, oh, the sheep has just got throat infection. Praise the Lord.

John chapter 10, verse 12 says that. But he that is a highling and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees it.

[ 9 : 00 ] Highlings. When highlings are on the job, they think about, let me think of my life. I can't be bothered. You can see the sheep are at stake.

But a highling doesn't really care. Can't be bothered. Doesn't care. Because what's endangers the life of the sheep is the wolves. So, Paul said, I know after my departure, grievous, grievous, they will cause a lot of havoc.

Will enter in among you and they will not, the pastors, they won't spare. There's the flock they have appetite for. They will not spare the flock.

That's why a pastor needs to take care of yourself and keep an eye on the flock. Keep an eye. Be interested in their state. Be interested. Be interested. Why is it that nowadays when you come to church, you are so quiet.

You used to be very excited. Why? Then he tells you, I've lost my job. Things are so, ooh, how are you paying your rent? Be interested in their look, the way the sheep are faring.

[10:04] And now when you are a leader and a departmental leader or a leader in the church and you serve alongside the pastor, your job is to look out for the sheep and keep the pastor or significant or important people updated about the state of the sheep.

Don't just go for business deal with the sheep. I know you are into business, but this is not a commercial enterprise. It's first of all the business of heaven, the business of souls.

There's a way God can meet you at the point of your need when you take care of his sheep. So he said, take care of the flock because they will come and enter.

They will not spare the sheep. But the challenge is, watch this, the internal wolves are not the only threat to the future of the flock. Look at the next verse.

He said that also, also of your own selves, guys who are one of you will rise up.

[11:11] The men shall arise speaking. Be careful who is speaking into your ears. Some people do well until they begin to listen to some others.

If you know anyone who has really been doing well in God or in a church before and they decline in their commitment, you check who they've been speaking to. Sometimes even not initially their spiritual state, but initially their companionship.

Who has been reinterpreting the events in the church to you? From amongst you, yourself, men shall arrive speaking. Speaking. How do you know where a man's heart is?

Listen to the way they are talking. Ask for me, I don't do anything for this church. Really, listen to what they keep complaining about. Listen to the way they reinterpret, we are going to do fasting.

Hey, they say fasting again. Sometimes you feel you are an odd one, maybe Sunday, do we have to be in church every Sunday?

[12:20] Sometimes, I don't, it's okay. But you don't want to do it because you feel it's right. Until somebody tells you, ah, me, I can't be doing every Sunday. Yeah, I know I'm a leader, but no, that doesn't mean I have to, I have to forget.

But I can't go every Sunday. I have a life to live. Suddenly, you realize that they have now prepared you. So, you see, it looks like what they are doing is harmless. But when you listen to them, what they are saying, the purpose is to draw people away onto themselves.

So, they are building alliance. Am I communicating at all? These are things that people need to be taught.

Because sheep are just gullible. How many of you, since you started attending church, you thought everybody was a good person?

Yeah. You thought everybody was. You know, so you realize that church people are human beings who are also in the process of transformation.

[13:26] Do you understand what I'm saying? I'm not making excuses for misbehavior, but I'm trying to tell you that sometimes when you are in church, you notice that, okay. Don't say, ah, this is why they are all hypocrites. You are the biggest of them.

Because when you come to church, you realize that they are real human beings. The people in Tesco are the same people. As I'm thinking, there's someone here, you have Tesco rice at home. There's not somebody also in church, you also have even bigger Tesco rice at home.

But he came to meet them in church. We are the same human beings, but our advantage is the word of God. We give ourselves to and we apply to ourselves.

So, there are people from within who sometimes, if we haven't dealt with our natural tendencies. Let's say your natural tendency is that of gossiping.

If you don't deal with it, by the time you realize you have become like a wolf or like a strange person in the church, you see this, your unhealthy natural tendency.

[14:28] Not because you are evil, but your natural tendency is not helpful. Before you realize you are creating so much tension amongst congregation. Before you realize, because of you, this one doesn't talk to this one.

And then you are hitting here, hitting there. But you have held two heads, knocked it together, and you are saying, oh, don't mind, don't worry. So, it says that diatrophies, he resisted us because he wanted to be the preeminent one in the church.

The scripture is 3 John verse 9. I wrote to the church, but diatrophies, who love to have the preeminent among them, does not receive us. It's sometimes human, but sometimes there are people who have their personal agenda in the church that will not align with the purpose of God.

And we have to watch all these things. So, we all have natural tendencies that might not be compatible with healthy church life. You are busy talking about, I don't lie, I don't steal, but there is a tendency you have that might not be healthy for effective church life.

We all have to look at ourselves first. Think about ourselves. If you are really for God, if you are really for Jesus, then think about yourself like today's reading was telling us.

[ 15 : 43 ] Think about yourself. He who loves God, receive the word of God. Think about yourself. Use the word of God as your mirror. Stop focusing on others.

I think in this case, you are the biggest defining factor. If you are okay with Christ, then Christ can use you as a conduit to be a blessing to other people.

Am I preaching at all? Yes, sir. So, he said, take it to yourselves and to the flocks. And then he said, ravenous who will come, one from outside and then two, from amongst you two, there's a threat.

And he said, therefore, remember, the next verse.

Therefore, remember, watch, and remember that by the space of three years, that's the longest place Paul's ever stayed anyway in the missionary journey. By the space of three years, I cease not to warn everyone night and day.

So, as he was teaching, he had this at the back of hand. Remember, you didn't notice I kept warning you. I kept warning you. I kept warning you. Because of this danger ahead. He said, remember that by the two or three years, I cease not to warn everyone day and night with tears.

[ 16 : 47 ] You know, we talk about Paul. It was tears. Brokenness of his heart. Because he knew that if you continue going the way you are going, you might be a victim. So, he warned them day and night.

He said, remember, that's what I've been doing. Then he went on to the next. So, after admonishing them, he went on to commendation. He said, and now.

Oh, I like that endearing term. Brethren. He said, we are family. Okay. He said, brethren. And now, brethren, I commend you to God.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. He said, it doesn't matter what I do. I cannot keep you. What sustains and keeps the church even in the face of opposition, in the face of ravenous wolves, in the face of dissenting ones rising amongst us, what can protect and keep the church is God.

Because pastors will come and go. The only thing that can preserve the church is actually God himself. So, he said, there are two agents that are responsible for keeping the church. And he said, I commend.

[ 18 : 02 ] The Greek word that translated commend is paratitimai. It's like para. Parasitamo. And I said, I'm not giving you parasitamo, but I'm giving you paratitimai.

Wow. My god. My god. My god. My god. My god. My god. My god. My god. My god. My god. It means I entrust.

That word, that was my command. I entrust. So I entrust. It means to entrust. It means it's a formal act of handing over responsibility.

I've always taken care of you, but now I formally hand, Paul said I'm handing over, not to the next bishop. I'm traveling, I'm leaving. You won't see my face again.

I hand you over to God. Handing you the church over to God. Until a pastor and until church leaders learn how to hand over the keeping of the church to God, they are not safe.

[ 19 : 00 ] The church is never safe. God is the only one who can protect the church. He said, I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. It means to set before. I'll set you before God.

It also means to deposit. It's almost like depositing a valuable treasure into a secure vault. The future of the church is not in the hands of a pastor.

The future of a church is not in the hands of a government. The future of a church is not in the hands of good, willed people because they will die and go. The Bible says that a king that knew not Joseph arose.

Kings come and kings go. And everybody comes with their own. So sometimes you never know who is going to come. I know most of us might not be aware of this, but the church, the oldest organization in human history is the church.

Now I'm not talking about the body of Christ. I'm talking about a church institution. A church institution. The Catholic church has been there for over a thousand years.

[ 20 : 16 ] There's no bank. There's no organization that has been. Many organizations sometimes don't even go 200 years. Yes. A lot of companies come and come.

So the church is designed to stay and to be able to stand the test of time. So the church should not be built for a pastor's lifetime.

The church must be built for posterity. One of my greatest desires is to see your grandchildren leading as one of your grandchildren, head pastor, general of Asia, and your great grandchildren getting married and doing well.

I mean, the same church. Years after we have gone, hundred years after we have gone, charism must still be moving on. The only way that can happen is when we commend the church to God. And so, how do you commend the church to God? It's one of the easiest ways to do. It's the easiest thing to do as a pastor. Commending the church to God? Yes.

[ 21 : 21 ] One of the easiest things to do is to commend the church to God. They said, I commend you not only to God, and to the word of his grace. That's how it works. Talking about, not set of rules, but the central place of the gospel in the church.

It keeps the Christian church alive. Sometimes, an organization can be going, but its Christian element is all fizzled out. And it's just become a human organization, a shell, but the spirit of God is not inside.

The only way you can keep the Christian church going effectively is by keeping our eyes on God and keeping the gospel, the preaching of the gospel, the center of everything we do in the church. The church should be built around us. That's why I've made a commitment, and I pray, please pray for me. And I pray that God help me. That may I not be found preaching and you don't find the message of the gospel in my mouth.

That every preaching I must preach must move people towards the center of God's economy, the center of Christ, Christ and the church. That after listening to you, you just fall in love with Christ again, or you hear some more, you feel like, oh, I need to know more about Christ.

[ 22 : 43 ] There's a hunger that awakens in you for Christ and the church. You can't separate the two. So, it says that, I commend you to God and to the word of his grace.

Ah, I like that. The word. The easiest way to inoculate the church is to make sure the gospel, the word of God, is so strong in the church.

One of the things that I believe is that we have to teach pastors and church leaders, and pastors like us must teach the word of God so much when someone is no more with us, one major thing they miss shouldn't be just our music.

They can miss the music, they can miss the French, but one thing they will miss is they know that the word of God is in your mouth. The word of God is in their midst. Like Peter, Jesus said, are you also going to leave me in John chapter 6?

Bible says, after that, many of his disciples left him. John chapter 6 from verse 66. It says that, from that time, many of his disciples went back and walked with him no more.

[ 23 : 43 ] Can you imagine? Jesus. Even Jesus. He didn't say a few members of his church left. Many. Many. May you not be among those men.

Many. Many of his disciples, not just followers, his disciples, many of his disciples went back and walked with him no more.

Watch this, the next verse. Then he turns to ask Peter. He says, are you also going to go? Do you also want to go away? Wow. This is a man who has committed the flock to God.

And then Peter, look at their response. Simon Peter says, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal, the word in your mouth.

We can't find it anywhere. The word. We have to elevate the teaching of God's word so strong that people look forward to hearing the word than any other thing.

[ 24 : 41 ] Christians. The more Christian you become, the more you look forward to hearing the word of God. The more you look forward to learning more about God, learning more from God, and hearing more about God's word that will draw you closer to God.

Because he said, I commend you to two agents, to God and to the word of his grace. Now watch this, the word, he didn't say, I'm committing you to set of rules. I'm committing you to set of expectations or instructions, but I commit you to the word.

Now, the word there is not just information. It didn't say, I'm committing you to information. The word of his grace means the word of God which is a living agent.

The word of God which is living. When it gets into your system, it does something to your spirit, man. It's not just information I'm passing on. He said, the word of his grace. The word of his grace. In fact, he said the word of his grace is because it is God who determines how well you can go. Even though you cooperate with God and comply with God, at the end of it all, whatever you become, says by the grace of God.

[ 25 : 46 ] So you don't boast that I've been good in standing. No, you are thankful that God's grace has helped you to stand. You are thankful. It is the word of his grace. Hallelujah.

If you are in church this morning, it's because God's grace made it possible. If I'm standing here, I shouldn't think I'm better than anybody. God forbid. In what way do I get better than anybody? What way? Is it my blood? It's still red. It still has hemoglobin. Not three hearts. Same liver. Whatever. So, what makes you take, what makes you look good before God is the grace of God. So he said, I commit you to the word of his grace. Grace makes allowance for you. Grace makes room for you. They asked you, how are you doing? He said, grace has made room for me. Grace has made room. You got a good job. Grace has made room for me. You got married. Grace has made room for me. You have a child. Grace has made room for me. Your child, that's what grace has made room. Your child's health.

[ 26 : 52 ] Please, never take for granted the health of a child. Yeah. When you have a child and maybe they don't have certain extreme health challenges. Never take for granted.

And you see someone whose child has some health challenges. Don't think you are a better parent. Grace. Make room for me. Grace. Somebody shout grace.

Grace. I commend you to God and to the word of his grace. And he says something about the word of his grace. He said, the word of God's grace is able to, did you see that?

Now, it's not information. It's not static information. This is a living word. Hebrews chapter 4, verse 12, he said, the word of God is active. It's living. All right. So the word of God is living.

He said, this word is able to do something to you. It's able to build you up. Build you up. It's a word of grace that builds us up. It's a word of grace that builds us up.

[ 27 : 47 ] It can build you up so much that a wolf tries to bite you and it can bite. Wolf tries, ah, no, I can't bite this one. No, I don't like this. Wolf mother says, oh, eat this one. I said, no, we don't like this one.

We don't like this one. They'll be running away from you. And he said, we like that one. We don't like that one. He's gospel in church. We like that one. May the word of his grace build us up. Build us up. Give yourself to the word of his grace. That's why I encourage every day there's a scripture we are reading. We're trying to develop the appetite for the word of God in people. Appetite. It's not a religious thing. It's just a relational thing with God. God, trying because, listen, you know how many of you have been unwell? Sometimes you just don't have appetite by your loved ones who encourage you.

Please, just let it. No, I feel sick. Don't worry. You let a little enter. They encourage you. That's what, I'm trying to commend you to God and to the word of you. You've been through a lot of difficulties in your life.

[ 28 : 47 ] This week has been very rough for you. This year has been rough. Last year was rough. But listen, I know I can pray for you weeks, but there's something that does better. If I can commend you to the word of his grace, it is able to...

Hallelujah! I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is, it has the ability to build you up.

Build you up! Build you up! Very soon, you look at yourself, you can tell, I'm a built up woman. I'm a built up man in the word of God. I'm built up in the word of God.

I'm built up in the word of God. I'm built up in life by the word of his grace. I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up. Because, sorry, I have to say this, it's the truth that sometimes life comes with challenges.

The older you grow, the more you realize that life is fraught with a lot of challenges. Sometimes, you leave one and you are entering another one. By the time you are leaving one problem, another one is coming.

[ 29 : 56 ] But may that not be your testimony. However, problems, yeah, it just, it just, it just, it is what it is.

But, I brace myself on the word of God just in case the unexpected happens, then I'm fortified in God. because I'm built up for the days ahead.

Built up for the days ahead. Even to have an effective prayer life is at the mercy of how well you are built up in God's word. I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and not just build you up, secure your testimony amongst those who are sanctified.

Give you inheritance, you have a portion in it, but until the word of God builds you up, until you're exposed to the word of his grace, your inheritance is not attainable. It's able to build you up and give you an inheritance amongst the saints, amongst those who are sanctified.

Within the church, you have an inheritance. So he said, he gave them the admonition, then he gave them commendation, and then finally, he gave them demonstration.

[ 31 : 11 ] Look at the next verse. He says that, I have coveted no one's silver or gold or april. Fix my eyes on your material possession. I wasn't keen on getting something from you. Why?

He says that, yes, you yourself know that these hands have provided for my necessities and not only mine, and for those who are with me. Paul was a bivocational pastor.

So he was working because of his missions. He was a tent maker. He was working to provide for himself. So during the working hours, he would go and work and then come and do ministry and work and come and do ministry.

He was giving them an illustration that listen, don't just wait for God to give to you. Get up and do something. That's a responsibility side. Okay? So Paul was trying to give them a demonstration of how we must be responsible.

So he gave them demonstration that you have to work. He said, I worked and supported the people with me. That's what he did. Verse 35 says that. And I've shown you in every way by laboring like this that ye must support the weak.

[ 32 : 18 ] Not just wearing designer wear. You must also look out for how you can be a blessing to people. He didn't say people must support you. Stop charging people to take care of you.

He said people should work and support the weak. Pastor, but I'm weak. The Bible never commands that you should be loved.

It commands you to love. So stop telling people what the Bible said they should do and take responsibility of what the Bible says you should do. That's what I mean. So stop saying people should take care of you and take responsibility to take care of others.

That's what the instruction is. So he gave them the demonstration of his lifestyle the way he's taking care. Then he goes as far as saying that remember the words of the Lord Jesus. This statement you will not see it anywhere in the Gospels.

So Paul said, he said, was he lying? How come none of the Gospel writers said he said and he said, oh please, there's so much he says that that was not recorded according to John chapter 21 verse 25 downwards.

[ 33 : 26 ] He said, Jesus did so many things that were not recorded because if they're supposed to be recorded, he said, shall we already from the screen? Let's go. He said, could not contain the books now.

Yes, I suppose that even the world cannot contain the books. He says, in fact, it's believed that Jesus says sometimes in a day he can do about 40 to 50 miracles. A lot of them are not recorded. Can you imagine the whole Gospel of John recorded only seven miracles? And John is saying that he did so many things that were not recorded. By inference, he said a lot of things that were not recorded because it didn't need to be recorded.

But Paul now is making because the people he was talking to, it was a common knowledge that Jesus said this. So he was not making reference to what we all know Jesus said and what Jesus said. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

That is why he was challenging them, take responsibility. Give you some usefulness to your life so that you can be in a position of blessedness because you are a giver. Not just a consumer. You are a giver.

[ 34 : 34 ] You are a distributor, not a consumer. You are a giver, not a taker. Because there is more blessing in giving than taking. There is more blessing in distributing than consuming. The Bible says the liberal soul shall be made fat.

And when he had that spoken, he knelt down. The last thing he told them was the words of Jesus. See how he was intentionally commending them to the word of his grace? That was the last words

he spoke.

He started by, you know my life. He finished by, remember what Jesus said. Commending them to God and the word of his grace. And when he had said that, he knelt down. And when he had said this, he knelt down and prayed with them all and they were wept because they are not going to see him again.

That is the beauty of church life. When we become like family. In fact, it was some of our missionaries when they are leaving to go and focus on it. You feel it. Even though we will see them soon, it feels like, we like the koinonia, but that is the nature of life.

Sometimes people go and people move on and they felt the departure of Paul. He said, I know after my departure. So he was departing. And Paul, they guessed him, sent him to the ship and he said, bye.

[ 35 : 43 ] See you later. If we don't meet, we will meet in heaven. Bye guys. Bye. That's what Paul did to the Ephesus church and built a strong church in Ephesus.

If we can commit our lives to his mission, his vision, the commission, admonition, the commendation and demonstration, our future is definitely settled and secured in Jesus' name. Did you receive something? Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Thank you for listening to this message by David and June. We trust you've been encouraged strengthened and enlightened by the word. Stay connected by following David and June's social media, including Instagram and LinkedIn. You can also listen to more messages on all major streaming platforms on the Karish Church app. Don't forget to like, share and be blessed. who has the best who has the best who has the best who has the best who has the best who has the best who has the best who has the best who has the best who has the best