

Godly Goodbyes 2016

Reality of Life in this place

Difficult to Love & Lose Friends

- shared life – win's and losses together
- share spiritual experience
 - trusted God, prayed, saw Him work
 - learning & growing together

Doing this well important

- both sides, leaving and staying

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1. Grieve Well

Acts 20:17-38... Paul & the church in Ephesus

a) identify the loss

- shared life & spiritual experiences
- new reality

b) express what matters

- thanksgiving – what has been important
- encouragement – you have been used by

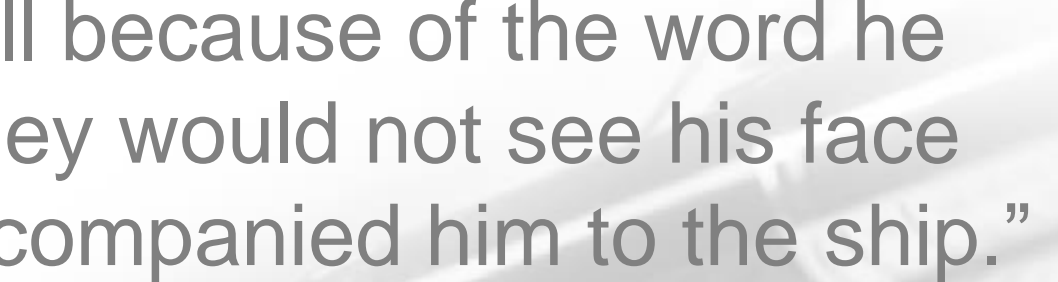
God in my life

- markers – identifying important growth

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c) commend one another to God

- 32-36 “And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.
³⁷ And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, ³⁸ being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.”



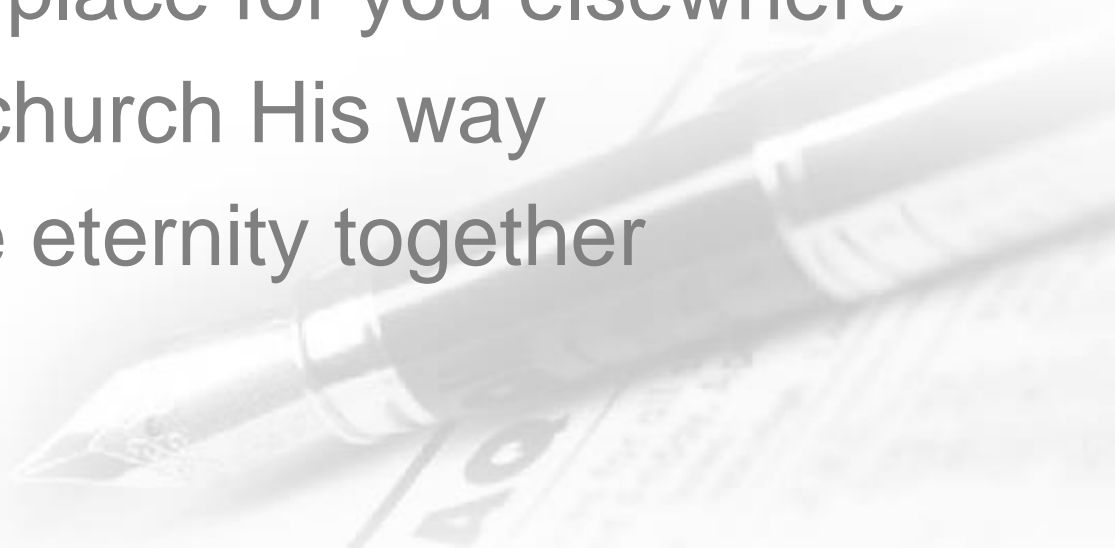
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2. Gain Perspective

a) God is involved and able

- Rom. 8:35-39 “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

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- b) Seasons of Life can be embraced
 - Eccl 3
 - c) I can Trust God in the Unknown
 - to bring others into our body
 - to prepare a place for you elsewhere
 - to build His church His way
 - that we have eternity together
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3. Extend a Blessing to One Another

a) Send them with a Blessing

- Acts 13 ““Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

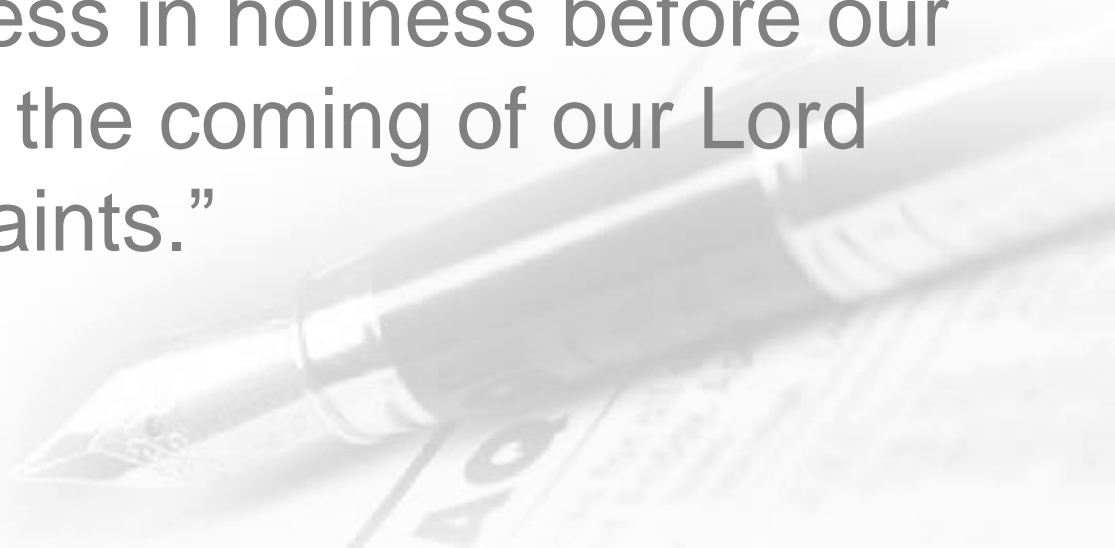
³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.”

b) Build up and pray for one another



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- 1 Thess 3:11ff “Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹² and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.”



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So What?

1. For Those being sent

- Thank intentionally
- Encourage specifically
- Identify the Growth and Lessons
- Pray for God's leading to Family of Faith
- Determine to ground and grow
- Don't compare, bring new life where you land

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2. For Those who Continue on here:

- celebrate what God has allowed
- encourage specifically and intentionally
- determine to send with a blessing - release
- allow God to touch and restore you in grief
- pray for those God would bring
- prepare to embrace others – hospitality, community, serving and experiencing God together

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3. Pray for One Another

