

Paul's Charge to the Ephesian Elders

[Act 20:28-31 NKJV] 28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 "Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 "Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

1) Elders: Give Attention

"Therefore take heed

take heed (imperative) -give attention to, devote effort toward
- v. 20: 17/18 - Paul began talking to elders and still is in v. 28-31

A. To Yourself (Pastors)

to yourselves

B. To the Flock

and to all the flock,

among which the Holy Spirit made you

- there is a role for men in human ordination, but the Holy Spirit is or should be involved [Act 14:23]

i. A Pastor is an overseer

you overseers,

-episkipos - supervisor, overseer

ii. A Pastor is a shepherd

to shepherd

- poimano - who are to be tending to, to be keeping

iii. A Pastor's flock is entrusted to him by God

a. It's God's Church

the church of God

b. Christ bought the church for Himself

which He purchased with His own blood

c. God has entrusted pastor's to lead His, very precious, flock

2) Why? - Two Threats to the Flock

29 "For I know this,

"I" - is emphatic, Paul has experienced, the Corinthian church allowed both of these dangers

that after my departure

A. Outside: Wolves

savage wolves

savage -burdensome, heavy, things not quickly taken care of

- Wolves do not have your best interests in mind, they are cruel and greedy

will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

- The intent is not to help you, but themselves
 - i. Persecution
 - ii. False Teachers
 - iii. "Consumer Flock"
 - iv. Tempters
- Heb. 10:25 - we should not just go to church for ourselves, go to exhort others [Rev 2:1-2]

B. Inside: Perverse Speaking Men

- i. i. People Within The Flock Will Distort the Truth
 - "Also from among yourselves*
- from among the flock, this could even include elders
 - men will rise up, speaking perverse things,*
 - perverting - diastrepho - distorting, with the goal to turn away, corrupting
- ii. ii. The Goal of the Distortion: To Further Themselves
 - to draw away the disciples after themselves.*
 - apospao - draw off, tear away

3) Give Strict Attention to Impending Dangers, Otherwise They Will Destroy

A. Be Active and Ready

"Therefore - because of these dangers *watch,* (imperative)

give strict attention to, be cautious, active, do this otherwise this

Pastors

- i. i. Teach the Word of God, preparing the flock
- ii. Prepare and help others to teach God's Word
- iii. Give of Themselves for the Flock

Flock

- i. Realize the dangers and temptations
- ii. Be active in learning God's Word
- iii. Be serving, don't be a "wolf"
- iv. Be striving to be a Bible based teacher/example in your role

B. Paul was Consumed With Warning About This, Because These Dangers Will Happen

and remember - be mindful, remember, call to mind these things

I did not cease to warn everyone

(warn) - admonish, exhort

- i. Paul was continuously warning (not just "Sundays")
 - that for three years night and day*
- ii. Paul cared for their well being (they weren't a "checkmark on a list")
 - with tears.*
- iii. not just warning, but with great emotion