

# Excellent Eldership

August 7, 2022

Acts 20:17-36

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. - Acts 20:28

## I. PAUL—THE ELDER

- Paul served among the Ephesians in this manner (Vss. 18-21):
  1. With humility.
  2. With tears.
  3. With trials.
  4. Sharing anything and everything that was profitable.
  5. Teaching publicly and privately.
  6. Testifying to any who would listen of repentance toward God and faith in Jesus.
- In all of Paul's obedience to the call of God, he found suffering and affliction lurked (Vs. 23; 2 Cor. 4:7-12; 2 Tim. 3:12).
- Paul's life and happiness here were not paramount to him. His goal was to finish the course of gospel ministry God had laid out for him (Vs. 24; Acts 9:15-16; 2 Tim. 4:6-8).
- Paul is able to affirm that he has preached openly and clearly. No one's "blood" was on his hands, for he proclaimed the whole counsel of God. He did not approach God's church as a thief, rather, he worked hard (Vss. 26-27; 33-35).

## II. PAUL'S EXHORTATION TO ELDERS (Vss. 25-35)

1. Pay attention both to yourselves and your flock.
2. Know that the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.
3. Care for the church of God (God obtained it with his own blood).
4. Be alert! Fierce wolves will come, both from without and within.
5. Follow my example: Night and day admonish the church with tears.
6. Pray! Pray! Pray!

**KNOW:** The task of being a shepherd of a local church is both a privilege and a burden. It calls for alertness, diligence, and Christlikeness.

**DO:** Understand what an elder is called to be. Pray for your elders.

### Suggested Reading:

*Biblical Eldership* by Alexander Strauch (LifePoint Library #248.4 DEY)

*The Hole in our Holiness* by Kevin DeYoung (LifePoint Library #262.15 STR)

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### Please Read Acts 20:17-36

1. What is Paul hoping to pass along to these Ephesian elders?
2. How has Paul emulated for us what an elder should look like?
3. How does God want the church to be led? What about leaders who also struggle with sin?
4. What makes a church healthy? Unhealthy?
5. How can church leaders be "alert?" What does that look like?
6. In what ways can you/will you pray for LifePoint Church and its leadership?
7. If you're not an elder, what application is there for you from this text?