

# Church Leadership

## (1) The Heart of a Leader

Timothy, the young pastor of the church of Ephesus, needed coaching on church leadership. Paul's instructions about Elder qualifications (ITim.3) were to address a crisis at Ephesus.

### *Paul meets the Ephesian elders...Acts 20:17-28*

Who were the early leaders/pastors of the church at Ephesus? Acts 19:8-10; 20:31-38

**Paul and Apollos both ministered there. Paul for 3 years. The very best of leadership.**

What is the difference between elder and overseer? vs.17; 28

**elder (presbuteros) = eldest, mature; position. Overseer (episkopos) = leadership; function**

What is the function inherent in the term shepherd? vs.28 IPet.5:2-4

**It's the tender care for the sheep, the church of God. Psalm 23, pastor / under-shepherd.**

How much had Paul invested in these elders? vs.17-21 (note vs.20, 27) IITim.4:2-4

**Everything, day and night. Taught the whole counsel of God. Preached faith in Christ.**

Summarize the motive that was driving Paul? vs.22-24

**Facing certain prison/hardships, charge! His life was secondary to finishing the course.**

What is verse 25-27? Ezek.33:7-9

**It is Paul's official goodbye to these men. His last instructions, guidance.**

### *Paul gives his final instructions and warnings...Acts 20:28-38*

What's his *first* instruction to these well taught elders? vs.28a,30-31; (ITim.4:1-16)

**Be on guard, keep watch over yourselves, elders! Why? Satan targets the leadership.**

What's the second instruction? vs.28b IPet.5:2-4

**Be on guard for the flock over which the Holy Spirit has made you (responsible) shepherds**

Why would Paul consider *self-guarding* the higher importance?

**Because it's the best way to insure the second! A false leadership will not pastor the flock.**

What did Paul predict about these elders? vs.29

**When I leave, savage wolves will come in among you, and not spare the flock.**

And what is even more alarming? vs.30

**Even from among these elders, men would arise, distort the truth to draw away the sheep.**

And how did Paul feel about this danger? vs.31

**Be on guard! Remember I warned you, day and night, with tears. Very serious business...**

How does he handle knowing he would never see them again? vs.32

**He commits them to God and to the Word of His grace to build them up.**

Next: Paul's predictions about the Ephesian elders... fulfilled.