

Sermon Handout

Pastors & Congregants

Acts 20:25-38

I. Sorrow and Affection – Paul set a standard of mutual love

- a. Paul's love for the Ephesians vv. 25, 36 *cf.* vv. 1, 22
- b. The Ephesian elders' love for Paul vv. 37-38

II. Paul has been the shepherd for the Ephesians

- a. He taught the entire flock v. 20
- b. He stood guiltless before them v. 26
 - i. Because he taught them the full counsel of God v. 27
 - ii. He warned them night and day v. 31 (*see* Rev 2:1-2)
 - iii. He gave of himself selflessly vv. 33-35
 - iv. He “preached the Kingdom of God” *cf.* Acts 28:23

III. Paul's Charge to the Elders

- a. Their primary duty – care, guide, protect, rule the flock *cf.* I Tim 3:4-5
 - i. Take care of yourselves and the people of God v. 28
 - 1. God has made you **overseers** of the congregation
 - 2. **Shepherd** those who have been bought by Christ
 - ii. Guard them from danger (“watch & remember”)
 - 1. From those outside the church v. 29
 - 2. From those within the church v. 30
- b. Like Paul, they must teach the Full Counsel of God v. 27

IV. The Teaching of the Word

- a. God & his Word are the foundation on which they are to build
 - i. Those who teach contrary to the Word are to be rejected
cf. II Tim 4:1-5; Tit 1:9-11; II Pet 2:1-3
 - ii. The teaching of the Word is of the utmost importance v. 32
 - 1. For our sanctification Jn 15:1-3, 7; Ps 119:9-11
 - 2. As the elder's duty I Tim 5:17-18; Heb 13:17
 - iii. True believers listen to Jesus' voice Jn 10:27-30
The voice of Christ is given to the church through the teaching of his appointed overseers; Acts 20:28; I Pet 5:4
- b. The “full counsel of God” includes instruction in living, not merely what we usually call “doctrine.” Jn 14:14, 21