

## **Digging Deeper: Acts 20:28–38**

Sermon Series: Truth/Consequence

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### **Day 1**

Read Acts 20:28a and pray for Spiritual Oversight. As part of his farewell to the Ephesian elders, Apostle Paul warns the elders to *“keep watch over themselves and all the flock.”* What does it mean to be watchful? Being an effective overseer requires trust in one’s ability to act swiftly and decisively, knowledge of how, when and where to sound an alarm, and to whom an alarm should be relayed to. In this passage, we learn that it was the Holy Spirit that made the Ephesian elders overseers. These men were chosen to be responsible for having their collective eyes and ears on their surroundings at all times. Doing this task effectively allowed the elders to be in the best position to warn those they were responsible for protecting of potential or actual threats of danger or attacks.

### **Day 2**

Read Acts 20:28b and pray for Spiritual Strength. Leaders who are called by the Holy Spirit are to be good stewards of God’s possessions. Therefore, a shepherd of the church is someone who cares for God’s flock. Why is this calling as significant today as it was when Paul was giving instructing to the Ephesian elders? Because the church of God was bought with His own blood through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

### **Day 3**

Read Acts 20:29 & 30 and pray for Spiritual Discernment. Paul knew as God knows that there are those among us who capture our attention. It is important to note, however, that not all who we give our attention to will bring us harm. Paul was warning the Ephesian elders about those who were on a mission to destroy the church, by attempting to turn believers and followers against the teachings of Jesus the Christ. Those who capture our attention in a harmful way can be as crafty as the serpent in the Garden of Eden, and we know the outcome of that story.

### **Day 4**

Read Acts 20:31 and pray for Spiritual Empathy. Following his conversion that we read about in Acts chapter 9, Apostle Paul traveled throughout the region establishing churches and proclaiming the good news of Jesus the Christ. Paul was a supremely gifted leader who was sensitive to the needs of others. He had genuine affection for others and was enthusiastically affirming, which is demonstrated in verse 31.

### **Day 5**

Read Acts 20:32-35 and pray for Spiritual Conviction. Apostle Paul, with his supreme gift of leadership and ability to influence, is an excellent example of one we can trust with our attention. Why? Because Paul directs our attention to Elohim (Yahweh, God), instead of away from him as the serpent did successfully in the Garden of Eden.

**Day 6**

Read Acts 20:36-38 and pray for Spiritual Development. My prayer is that you and your loved ones will be blessed by this week's lesson!