

CP— 3/10/24

Acts 20:28-28—How to Pray for Your Pastors

Sermon Outline

Overall take-home from the text today:

- The church is highly valuable and should be loved deeply
- The role or office of pastor is appointed by the Holy Spirit
- **Pray for your pastors**

*****Big Truth: The Church is the Father's Church, secured by the blood of the Son, and supervised by the Holy Spirit. (Trinitarian oversight)**

1. The Exhortation (20:28–31)

- Watch over yourselves.
 - Mark 13:9; Luke 21:34; 1 Timothy 4:16; 1 Corinthians 9:27
 - Pastors much watch over themselves!
 - Identity, Spiritually, Doctrinally, Relationally, Morally
 - Elders must first care for their own souls in order to be effective shepherds!
- Watch over all of the flock of God. (LEAD,FEED,PROTECT)
 - John 10; 1 Peter 5:2–3
 - “The Holy Spirit made you overseers,” “God’s church,” “obtained by His blood”
 - Overseers — LEAD
 - To care— pastor/shepherd — to tend — FEED
 - Do all things required of a shepherd.
 - Care for, lead, discipline, bound wounds, guide, FEED
 - Shepherds lead the sheep on where to feed: The Word of God
 - Shepherds must have the same attitude toward the flock as the Great Shepherd.
 - Ephesians 5:25–27
 - Acts 20:31 — admonish day and night with tears
 - The understanding that the church is God’s church, secured by the Son, and supervised by the Spirit produces endurance.
 - Pastors are to persevere in caring because of the church’s value in God’s sight.
- Watch out for wolves. (PROTECT)
 - The enemy of the sheep is a wolf.
 - Wolves come from the outside and from the inside.
 - Twisted things — half truths to lead away
 - BE ALERT
 - Titus 1:9
 - In a world of theological vagueness and nuances, we must stay firm to Truth and defend the church from error.

2. The Commendation (20:32–35)

- commend—to entrust
- To God and to the Gospel
- Sanctified— finished work— standing before God = Saints
- Build you up — sanctification and assurance
- Pastors must be dependent on God and students of the Scriptures.
 - Only God, through His Word, can empower pastors to fulfill their duty.
 - Dependence on God is manifested in prayer.
 - You want a studied pastor, but you want a praying pastor.
 - We must be filled up in order to feed!
- v. 33–35— Pastors shouldn't be driven by a paycheck.
 - We aren't called to get rich but to serve the Lord.

3. The Salutation (20:36–38)

- Paul's final farewell to the Ephesian elders

Small Group Discussion

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the Scripture passage and sermon Sunday? What stood out? What do you have questions about?
2. What makes the Church so valuable? How does this passage teach us that we should never have a low view of the church?
3. What roles do we see for pastors/elders from this passage? Why must the pastors first watch over their own life? How does a pastor look out for all of the flock? How do pastors protect against wolves?
4. How does this passage teach you to be able to pray for your pastors?
5. Spend some time in prayer for your pastors this week, even if they're in your group.