

Church – The Beginnings, Part 66

Paul's Charge to the Ephesian Elders - Part 3 - Acts 20:17-38

02/04/2018

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

For Today's Teaching, please go to: <https://wp1.NLFJI.org/333>

To Follow the Entire Series → <https://NLFJI.org/ACTS>

Acts 20:28-32 - Be on GUARD for yourselves and for all the FLOCK, among which the Holy Spirit has made you OVERSEERS, to SHEPHERD the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be on the ALERT, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to ADMONISH each one with TEARS. ³² And now I commend you to God AND to the WORD of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

1 Peter 5:1-5 - Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your FELLOW ELDER and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, ² shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight NOT under compulsion, but voluntarily, ACCORDING to the WILL of God; and NOT for sordid gain, but with eagerness; ³ NOR yet as LORDING it over those ALLOTTED to your CHARGE, but proving to be EXAMPLES to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

Ephesians 4:11-16 - And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the EQUIPPING of the saints for the WORK of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of THE FAITH, and of the KNOWLEDGE of the Son of God, to a MATURE man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a RESULT, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the TRUTH in LOVE, we are to GROW up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being FITTED and held together by what EVERY JOINT SUPPLIES, ACCORDING TO the PROPER WORKING of each INDIVIDUAL PART, causes the GROWTH of the body for the BUILDING UP of itself in LOVE.

(other references: 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; Heb. 13:7,17)

The Focus, Charge, Duties, and Responsibilities of Elders:

1. First Priorities (Acts 20:28-32):

- a. **Guard the Flock / Protect them from the “wolves” (false teachings / false teachers, etc.)**
- b. **Feed the Flock / Shepherd the Flock – oversight, guidance, teaching with sound doctrine (the food is the Word of God) This includes Warning, Admonishment, Rebuke and Corrections – based upon the Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-4:4)**

2. The Motivation and Example – (1 Peter 5:1-5)

Peter, although he is an Apostle (capital “A” Apostle) – he was also a Fellow Elder with those he was corresponding with – over a local church family.

- a. **Motivation – Voluntary according to the Will of God with eagerness – not under obligation – Pure Motivations**
- b. **Example to the Flock – in how he shepherds the flock**

3. The Elder's Focus: Equipping the Saints ... (Ephesians 4:11-16)

- a. **Equipped for the work of ministry/service – knitted together, repaired, built-up, healed to proper working fitness to do that which you were created to do.**
- b. **The Goal is Maturity in Christ, in the Word of God, in using one's Gifts to cause the growth (numeric growth) of the local church family, and building it up in Love (qualitative growth)**
- c. **Protection → Ephesians 4:14 (ref.: Acts 20:28-32)**
- d. **This Equipping is based upon the Word of God being taught properly and consistently. No Ad-Mixture included. (ref. 1 Timothy 5:17-18)**

4. Why is this so important? – 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4

Using the WORD of God, ONLY – the Elder must Teach Sound Doctrine, always, with no ad-mixture of man-made traditions, etc. Because there will be a time in which folks will reject Sound Doctrine and want man-made traditions, stories, and myths.

So, the Word of God must be preached, proclaimed, taught to so that that local church family is thoroughly equipped for every good work. This may include: Reproving, Rebuking, Exhortation, Encouragement, Admonishment, Correction, and more Teaching

Do you have a diminished view of Scripture? By your decisions, you show your view of Scripture. Do you only obey it, when it is convenient for you, and fits into your schedule or agenda?