

# Being Our Brother & Sister's Keeper

Ministry Lessons From Acts 20:28-31

The young church in Ephesus had some perilous & challenging days ahead. They would endure vicious attacks from within & without. In light of the coming darkness, Paul warns & prepares the Elders so they can best oversee & tend to the flock – God's flock - put under their shepherding. Their roles & responsibilities as Elders, Overseers & Pastors gives a heads-up in how we should provide care for one another. Their tasks & titles teach us that we too should:

## A. Keep Watch, Pay Careful Attention to:

- ✓ **Our Own Hearts & Lives** - see Deut. 4:9  
Paul to Timothy                      1 Tim. 1:18-20; 4:16  
Belief / Orthodoxy & Behavior / Orthopraxy  
Jesus to His Disciples              Mark 13:33-37; 14:38
  
- ✓ **All of God's Flock** James 2:1-13; John 21:15-17

## B. Shepherd or Pastor God's Church

**Which He Bought with His own Blood**

**Tending sheep or people requires care that is:**

Proactive	Protective	Passionate
Personal	Perpetual	Parental

**C. Beware of Destructive, Disruptive Forces:**

✓ **Ravenous Wolves**                      **Destructive Outsiders**

Like a certain lion we know      1 Pet. 5:8-11

✓ **Divisive Sheep**                      **Disruptive Insiders**

They went out from us...      1 John 2:18-27

**Note:** In the New Testament, Elders are also called Shepherds or Pastors, as well as Bishops or Overseers (see 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:1-9; Philippians 1:1; 1 Peter 5:1-4). These different titles reflect distinct duties & roles all in the same “job.” They are almost always referred to in the plural.