



Church Polity in the Book of Acts

Acts 20

9/1/19 PM

THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF ELDERS

Introduction:

I. PAUL LOOKS BACK (20: 13-21)

A. Paul Sets His Face for Jerusalem (vs. 13-16)

1. Leaving Macedonia
2. Avoiding Ephesus
3. Heading for Jerusalem

B. Paul Reviews His Ministry at Ephesus (vs. 17-21)

1. Paul demonstrated transparent integrity.
2. Paul demonstrated godly character.
3. Paul demonstrated faithful biblical teaching.
4. Paul demonstrated a servant attitude.

II. PAUL LOOKS AHEAD (20:22-27) Finishing strong means you...

1. know what your ministry is and what God expects of you
2. understand that you are a conscript, not a volunteer
3. expect hardship in your service for the Lord
4. have your eye on the finish line

Note: elders (vs. 17, *presbuteros*); overseers (vs. 27, *episkopos*); shepherds (vs. 27, *poimain*)

III. PAUL LAYS DOWN A PATTERN FOR US (20:28-38)

A. Teaching by Self-Examination (vs. 28)

“watch yourselves”

“watch over the flock”

B. Teaching by Exhortation (vs. 29-31)

“savage wolves will come in”

“from among your own selves”

“I never stopped warning” (NIV)

II Timothy 4:2-4

What Paul predicted happened! (Rev. 2:4-6)

C. Teaching by Example (vs. 25-27)

Look at my hands. (“you yourselves know”)

Look at my heart. (“not coveted”)

Look at my hard work for others. (“in everything I did”)

How do you spot a false teacher?

- ❶ False teachers contradict sound doctrine.
- ❷ False teachers promote immoral living.
- ❸ False teachers de-emphasize sin and judgment.
- ❹ False teachers are motivated by greed or selfish gain.
- ❺ False teachers cause division.
- ❻ False teachers resemble the flock.

Conclusion:

I Timothy. 6:17-19

I Peter 5:1-3