

The Church on Mission

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me..." Acts 1:8

Good News Baptist Church
AM Message

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ATTENTIVE PASTORS NEEDED

Acts 20:28-38

Context: Paul has shared with the Ephesian pastors/elders that he is leaving them to go to Jerusalem, knowing he awaits suffering there (Acts 20:22, 23). Paul does not focus on his own self-preservation. He exemplifies joyous, sacrificial devotion to God's causes.

The church of God needs pastors that guard and sacrifice for God's causes for them.

The Church of God needs pastors that:

I. Carefully pay attention to their personal walk with God and that of the whole church (v. 28).

➤ *Pray for your pastors, deacons, Sunday School teachers, the children, and the whole church's walk with God. Pray God protect and help us prioritize our times of prayer and studying God's Word. Pray for your pastor and your church family to grow spiritually.*

II. View the Church as belonging to God (v. 28).

➤ *The Church is not a building, possessions, offerings, or attendance charts. It is the body of Christ banded together for ministry to the Lord. Avoid saying, "Pastor John's church." We are a family belonging to Christ, not a pastor.*

III. Are committed guardians, who safeguard sound Bible teaching in their churches (v. 29-31; Ephesians 4:11-12).

- *Pray that your pastor always be learning and current with what the enemy of our souls is using to attack our faith. Your pastor and church need discernment to detect false teaching and faith to follow the Word of God more than movements and personalities.*

IV. Are captivated by God's grace with a passion to sacrificially meet the spiritual and personal needs of the flock (v. 32-35; 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7; Colossians 3:5-6).

- *Pray God keep all of us in love with His grace, so we do not become hoodwinked by greed's self-absorbed causes. Who can you give to? Who can you share with who could use the help? The poorest person indebted to God's grace, is a giver.*

V. Work to build deep and enduring relationships (v. 36-38).

- *Love means investing in people, sharing in their hurts and in their needs, caring about their future, often giving at your expense.*