



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High

Title: Paul's Farewell Speech,
Part 4

Lesson: 109

Text: Acts 20:25-28

Date: August 31, 2025

Jeremiah 2:8; Isaiah 1:23; Micah 3:1–3; Ezekiel 34:2–4;
Jeremiah 5:31; Hosea 4:6

Matthew 15:14 “Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.”

Elders have eight primary responsibilities:

1. To live a life worthy of imitation
2. To serve the Lord
3. To preach God's Word
4. To evangelize the unsaved
5. To WALK in the Spirit

25 “And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face.

“now behold” - Same as verse 22

“preaching the kingdom”

It is consistent with the Lord's emphasis at the beginning.

Acts 1:3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning **the kingdom** of God.

And at the end with Paul in Rome.

Acts 28:31 preaching **the kingdom** of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

26 “Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 “For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

Paul’s main emphasis was the proclamation of Truth:

- In (20) he didn’t shrink back from **declaring** what is profitable
- In (21) he was solemnly **testifying** - repentance / faith
- In (24) he wanted to **testify** solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God
- In (25) - I went about **preaching** the kingdom
- In (27) - he didn’t shirk from **declaring** to you the whole purpose of God
- In (31) - for a period of three years I did not cease to **admonish** each one with tears.

26 “Therefore, I testify to you this day that **I am innocent of the blood** of all men. 27 “For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God

“I am innocent of the blood”

“blood”- is a metaphor for guilt / responsibility

Ezekiel 33:1–6 And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 2 “Son of man, speak to the sons of your people and say to them, ‘If I bring a sword upon a land, and the people of the land take one man from among them and make him their watchman, 3 and he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows on the trumpet and warns the people, 4 then he who hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, and a sword comes and takes him away, **his blood will be on his own head.** 5 ‘He heard the sound of the trumpet but did not take warning; **his blood will be on himself.** But had he taken warning, he would have delivered his life.

Acts 18:6 But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, **“Your blood be on your own heads!** I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

6 ‘But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet and the people are not warned, and a sword comes and takes a person from them, he is taken away in his iniquity; **but his blood I will require from the watchman’s hand.**’ 7 “Now as for you, son of man, I have appointed you a watchman for the house of Israel; so you will hear a message from My mouth and give them warning from Me. 8 “When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked

man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, **but his blood I will require from your hand.**

**The one who _____ the gospel and
the one who _____ it are responsible
for how they respond.**

6. To _____ the church

28 "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.

"Be on guard" [prosechō] -

"yourselves"

Paul lists five ways elders are to oversee the church:

A. Practice _____ vigilance

**Effective leadership flows from a _____,
not just knowledge.**

1 Timothy 4:16 Pay close attention to **yourself** and to your **teaching**; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

How do elders guard themselves?

1 Timothy 3:1–7 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of **overseer**, it is a fine work he desires to do.

Be on guard for their personal life.

2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.

Be on guard for their family life.

4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), 6 and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.

Be on guard for their reputation

7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

B. To _____ the flock

28 “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.

“flock”

Believers are like sheep in five ways:

1. Dependent
2. Wanderers
3. Vulnerable
4. Trusting
5. Social

28 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.

“the Holy Spirit has made you overseers”

1 Peter 5:3 nor yet as lording it over those **allotted to your charge**, but proving to be examples to the flock.

“allotted to your charge” [klēros] -

“overseerer”

Paul used three different terms to describe the same office:

Verse 17 – “elders” [presbyteros] - Age / maturity

Verse 28 – “overseers” [episkopos] - Oversight / guardianship

Verse 28 – “to shepherd” [poimainō] - Caring, nurturing, and teaching

What shepherds did most in ancient times was to get their sheep into a place where they could eat.

John 21:15–17 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, **“Tend [FEED] My lambs.”** 16 He said to him again a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” He said to him, **“Shepherd My sheep.”** 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, **“Tend [FEED] My sheep.”**

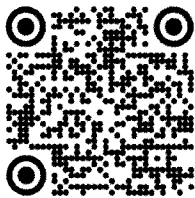
1 Timothy 5:17–18 The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who **work hard at preaching and teaching.** 18 For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing,” and “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”

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.

“He purchased with His own blood”

Discussion Guide

1. What does Paul mean when he says that he has not hesitated to declare the whole purpose of God to the believers? How does this challenge us in our own sharing of faith?
2. What does it mean to “pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock”? Does the order matter and why?
3. How does the Holy Spirit’s role in appointing overseers impact the way the elders should view their responsibilities? How does it impact your view of eldership?
4. Paul urges the leaders to be vigilant. What are some modern dangers to the church that require similar vigilance?



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ANSWERS: shares, hears, oversee, personal, life, shepherd