

# 08/13/23 Message

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Part of Blurred Faith

August 12, 2023

## Message: Watch Out

### Series: Blurred Faith

This is a series discussing the real impact life has on our faith. It is often too easy to abandon or detour from God's will when our faith is blurred. Sometimes, just sometimes we don't realize our faith is blurred because we don't know what it's like to live without the blur!

## Paul Brings Clarity to Blurred Faith

### ***Acts 20:25 (NLT)***

And now I know that none of you to whom I have preached the Kingdom will ever see me again.

- And now behold
  - Paul is talking about the present and asking them to listen (pay attention), because they will never see his face again

### ***Acts 20:26-27 (NLT)***

I declare today that I have been faithful. If anyone suffers eternal death, it's not my fault, for I didn't shrink from declaring all that God wants you to know.

- Paul is giving testimony (he's testifying)
  - I have been faithful!
  - I didn't quit
  - I am innocent of the blood (no blood, no forgiveness)

### ***Acts 20:28 (NLT)***

So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders.

- Listen, pay attention, beware
  - Guard yourself

- Guard God's people

### **Acts 20:29 (NLT)**

I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock.

- Guard against the wolves
  - cf. Matthew 10:16
  - Wolves = the enemy, the world, anyone not a "sheep"

*Wolves attack! Wolves cause injury! Wolves cause death!  
Wolves cause destruction! In John 10:12, Jesus said  
wolves will cause the sheep to run! You're either a wolf or  
you're a sheep, and if you're a sheep - wolves only want  
one thing - YOU!*

—Pastor Chad

### **Acts 20:30 (NLT)**

Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following.

- Men = Men and Women; people
- People will rise up
  - How to recognize a wolf? They distort the truth in order to draw a following!

### **Acts 20:31 (NLT)**

Watch out! Remember the three years I was with you—my constant watch and care over you night and day, and my many tears for you.

- cf. v30, people will be perverted by wolves and drawn away after them
  - Perverted = twist, distort, turn aside, flip in the opposite direction
  - Wolves cause sheep to run!
- Watch out, put up your guard, be alert!
  - Guard yourselves!
  - Guard the church!

*If you haven't fought any wolves lately, your faith might  
be a little blurred. Because wolves are threatening you!*

*Wolves are threatening your marriage, your family, your friends. Wolves are threatening your church! What are you going to do about it?... I'm sick and tired of wolves attacking people I love and care about. I'm sick and tired of wolves destroying churches. I'm sick and tired of wolves sticking it to my Savior! Jesus deserves better!*

*—Pastor Chad*

*Be strong - be bold - be ready - because here's a truth from heaven. Sometimes a wolf doesn't know they're a wolf. It's time to let them in on their dirty little secret, and while you're at it, you can let them know you won't stand by and let them steal, kill, and destroy what belongs to God! We're in His army and it's time to finish the work!*

*—Pastor Chad*