

# Beware the Wolves

Acts 20:29–31

## CONTEXT

- Paul is 30 miles outside Ephesus.
- He planted this church. He disciplined these pastors.
- He knows he will never see them again.
- These are his final warnings to leaders.
- Leadership = influence. Influence demands vigilance.

Acts 20:29–31

“Fierce wolves will come... not sparing the flock... speaking twisted things... to draw away the disciples... Therefore be alert...”

## BIG IDEA

Love warns.

Healthy churches don't just grow—they guard.

## 1. WOLVES ARE A PATTERN, NOT A POSSIBILITY

- Paul says, “I know” wolves will come.
- This isn't prophecy—it's pattern recognition.
- From Genesis to Revelation, the enemy distorts truth.

**The Enemy's Tactic:**

Not full lies — twisted truth.

- **Genesis 3** – “Did God really say?”
- **Matthew 4** – Satan quotes Scripture out of context.
- **Galatians** – Jesus + law = distorted gospel.

Wolves rarely deny Jesus.  
They add to Him.

## 2. DISTORTED DOCTRINE LEADS TO DAMNATION

- Add anything to the gospel and you destroy it.
- Salvation = grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

**Galatians 2:16** – justified by faith.

**James 2:10** – break one law, guilty of all.

Examples of modern distortion:

- Jesus + politics
- Jesus + nationalism
- Jesus + self-improvement
- Jesus + revised sexuality
- Jesus + moral performance

Add to the gospel → You will be judged by what you add.

## 3. WOLVES NOW LIVE IN YOUR FEED

- Historically, wolves had to know your name.
- Today, a personality with an iPhone can disciple you.
- Algorithms care about attention—not your soul.

Drift doesn't happen overnight.

You don't wake up rejecting Jesus.

You slowly start trusting voices that don't shepherd you.

If you don't know Scripture, you can't detect distortion.

## 4. BE ALERT

### Acts 20:31

- Ongoing vigilance.
- Alertness ≠ paranoia.
- Alertness = awareness rooted in love.

Paul warned them:

- Relentlessly (night and day)
- Personally (every one)
- Emotionally (with tears)

Pastoring isn't casual.

Protecting doctrine isn't optional.

### 1 Corinthians 16:13

“Be watchful. Stand firm in the faith.”

## FINAL APPLICATION

Ask:

- What voices shape my doctrine?
- Am I adding anything to the gospel?
- Do I know Scripture well enough to detect distortion?

The greatest threat to the church is not culture outside.  
It's distortion inside.

Wolves are real.  
Stay awake.  
Guard the gospel.