

# A Charge to the Elders

Acts 20:17-38

## The Context of Acts 20

- Paul's Third Missionary Journey
- Paul's Journey to Jerusalem

## Paul Reviewed His Past Ministry (20:18-21)

- *properly executed Christian ministry is evident to and can be affirmed by others.*
- *properly executed Christian ministry encompasses the whole and not just the parts, which means by implication that faithfulness is as important as individual successes.*
- *properly executed Christian ministry is a duty.*
- *properly executed Christian ministry is marked by humility, that is, a lowliness of mind that places God and others above one's self.*
- *properly executed Christian ministry is marked by tears, that is, a godly sorrow over false or inadequate beliefs regarding God, over the condition of the lost, and over the sin of God's people, all things over which Paul sorrowed (Rom. 9:2-3; 2 Cor. 2:4; Phil. 3:18).*
- *properly executed Christian ministry is marked by trials in that it will be resisted by the kingdom of Satan (Ac. 9:16; 14:19-20; 20:3; 2 Cor. 11:24, 26).*
- *properly executed Christian ministry does not cower or shrink back before opposition but faithfully follows through, in spite of opposition to it.*
- *properly executed Christian ministry is focused primarily upon the teaching of the Word of God in all and every opportunity.*
- *properly executed Christian ministry contains both a public ministry and intimate ministry to individuals and families.*
- *properly executed Christian ministry defends and proclaims the complete gospel of God, both repentance and faith.*

## Paul Identified His Present Situation and Resolve (20:22-27)

## Paul Charged the Elders with Their duties and responsibilities (20:28-35)

1. A Commitment to Personal Holiness (20:28a)
  - Self-examination
  - Adjustment
  - Accountability
2. A Commitment to Shepherding the Flock of God (20:28a-c)
  - overseer (episkopos) superintendent, keeper, bishop
  - shepherd pastor
3. A Commitment to Guard the Flock (20:29-31)
  - alert be awake, keep awake
4. A Commitment to God and His Word (20:32)
5. A Commitment to Selflessness (20:33-35)