

## One Last Thing: A Message to the Leaders (Part 1)

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### Introduction

The Apostle Paul's final message to the leaders at Ephesus is a profound reminder of the spiritual responsibilities bestowed upon church leaders. This guide explores the themes of self-vigilance, divine appointment, shepherding, and the intrinsic value of the church.

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### Key Themes

#### Self-Vigilance and Personal Integrity

- Paul emphasizes the importance of leaders watching over themselves first, recognizing that one's ability to lead others is deeply intertwined with their personal spiritual health.

#### Divine Appointment as Overseers

- Leaders are reminded that their position is not merely a human aspiration but a role appointed by the Holy Spirit, highlighting the spiritual significance and accountability of their leadership.

#### Shepherding with Eagerness and Example

- The task of guiding, protecting, nurturing, and caring for the church is modeled after Christ's example, emphasizing willingness and eagerness over compulsion or personal gain.

#### The Church as God's Possession

- Acknowledging the church was purchased with the blood of Christ instills a sense of profound respect and value for the church, beyond its imperfections, as God's own possession.

### Reflection Questions

1. **Self-Vigilance:** How can church leaders maintain their spiritual health and integrity in a way that strengthens their leadership?

2. **Divine Appointment:** What does it mean to you that the Holy Spirit appoints church leaders? How does this understanding impact your view of church leadership?
3. **Shepherding:** Reflect on the example of Christ as the shepherd. What practical steps can leaders take to shepherd their flock with eagerness and humility?
4. **Value of the Church:** How does the understanding that the church is God's possession, purchased with Christ's blood, influence your approach to ministry and leadership?

### **Closing Reflection**

Paul's message to the leaders of Ephesus is timeless, offering vital insights for today's church leaders. As you engage with this study guide, consider how these principles can be integrated into your leadership practice to foster a community that reflects the love, integrity, and mission of Christ.