

**Series "The Acts Of God"**  
**"Be On Guard"**  
**Acts 20:28-38**  
**Study-39**

**Acts 20:28-38**

**Acts 20:32**

**Acts 20:18-38** – This Passage is Unique in that it is the Only Recorded Sermon in Acts in which Paul Spoke to Church Leaders, (Christians).

Paul Reviewed the Past – Acts 20: 18-21

Paul Spoke of the Present – Acts 20:22-27

Now Paul Warns About the Future – Acts 20:28-38

**We Will Look At 5 Areas in Our Study:**

**1. Verse 28 – Guard Yourself:**

Acts 20:28

"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock," – Emphasis Changes From Paul To The Elders:

"Be on guard for yourselves" – "So guard yourselves"

1 Timothy 4:12-16

Effective ministry is not mere outward activity; it is the overflow of a rich, deep relationship with God.

John 10:16

"among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers," – The Holy Spirit is the one that calls one into oversight.

Overseers – (Bishop) – New Testament; there are three titles elder, bishop, (Overseers) and pastor, which were synonymous. The qualifications for this office are given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9.

"to shepherd the church" – Duty of Feeding of the Flock: Acts 20:20

Ezek 34:2

“to shepherd the church” – Duty of Protecting the Flock:

Titus 1:9

Eph 5:25-27

Matt 9:36

## **2. Verse 29 – Guard Without:**

Acts 20:29

Matthew 7:15

Matthew 10:16

From The Outside: “will come in among you,”

The Medicalization of Sin:

The Marketing of the Church:

Jesus Exists To Meet Your Needs:

2 Peter 2:14-15

## **3. Verses 30-31 – Guard Within:**

Acts 20:30

From The Inside: “and from among your own selves men will arise,”; 1 Tim 1:20; 2 Tim 2:17

Rev 2:1-7

“speaking perverse things,” – This describes “The distortion of the truth, to lead astray”; All heresy is warped and twisted truth, seen out of focus, and so out of proportion.

The Aim: “to draw away”; Literally “drag away”

“the disciples after them.” – True Christianity always points to Jesus Christ.

Health and Wealth, Possibility Thinking –

Legalism Instead of Grace –

New Age Teaching –

Universalism –

Ephesians 4:14

Act 20:31

“be on the alert,” – a verb implying “sleepless alertness”, like Shepherds watching their flocks by night.

#### **4. Verses 32-34 – Live By Grace:**

Acts 20:32

Acts 20:26

Phil 1:6

1 Tim 6:13-14

2 Cor 11:28

“the word of His grace,” – God’s message and enablement is all unmerited favor of God.

2 Tim 3:15-17

“among all those who are sanctified.” 2 Peter 3:18

Acts 20:33

Paul had just spoken about a Spiritual Inheritance; now the Physical Inheritance:

“Coveted” – “to set the heart upon, long for, desire, (after)”; It means a consuming and controlling desire for what others have and for more of what we ourselves already have.

Ex 20:17

2 Peter 2:1-3

Acts 20:34

Paul Was Not Lazy: "that these hands ministered to my own needs",  
Acts 18:3

### **5. Verses 34-38 – Living Is Giving:**

Acts 20:34-35

Paul Warned About Selfishness: "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak"

Mark 10:45

It could be paraphrased, "It's better to share with others than to keep what you have and collect more."

Acts 20:36-38

### **Application:**

1. Guard Yourself: Ministry starts with God and me. Ministry is the outflow of God.
2. Guard Without: Guard against wolves that are both deceptive and deadly.
3. Guard Within: Guard against those that are both deceptive and self-seeking.
4. Live By Grace: Ministry starts with grace and is completed by grace.
5. Living Is Giving: A recipient of grace is a giver because of grace.