

**The Church**  
***Leadership, Part 2***  
**Acts 20:17-35**

- Read Acts 20:17-35, pausing at the natural stopping points to discuss what you read together.
  
- Read Acts 20:17 and 28, then read Acts 14:23.
  - What are the three terms used for NT church leaders? Are these different offices, or are they referring to the same office?
  - Where do you find a plurality of elders in these texts? It is amazing how certain truths hide in plain sight, isn't it?
  - How should you pray for the elders?
  
- Spend time processing the application points from the sermon – make sure to do so within the context of Acts 20:28-32:
  1. We have been bought with the blood of Christ – let us live as those who have an eternal inheritance (28, 32)
  2. The biggest danger we face is false doctrine, whether it comes from within or without – pray that our shepherds will protect the flock from false teachers (29-31)
  3. We have been entrusted to God and to the word of his grace – pursue Jesus in God's gracious word (32)
  
- Some people choose Acts 20:24 as a “life verse.” Take time to meditate together on this verse. Paul knew he was heading into danger by going to Jerusalem, so these words beautifully reveal his heart. The days ahead in America might become dangerous for believers. Before moving to the next point – and after you have discussed the implications of this verse – pray together, asking the Lord to give you opportunities to share the gospel and the courage to face whatever may come because of your witness.
  
- Read Ezekiel 33:1-7 and then read Acts 20:25-27. Connect the dots.
  - Paul did not specifically command the Ephesian elders to witness to the lost, but he surely set the example. Do you think of sharing the gospel with the lost as an obligation? Will God hold you accountable if you do not witness?

- What about the contention a few weeks ago that not every encounter with an unbeliever is an opportunity to share the gospel?

## Study Notes

### Thoughts and Quotes from the Sermon

#### Three NT (Greek) Words Used for Church Leaders

• elder	πρεσβύτερος	presbuteros
• overseer/bishop	ἐπίσκοπος	episkopos
• shepherd/pastor	ποιμήν	poimen

Elder and overseer are the same office and are used interchangeably. Shepherd (once translated pastor – Ephesians 4:11 – in many English translations) describes the way the church leader is to function, but it is also true that all three terms are used interchangeably. Therefore, our elders are also overseers and pastors.

#### Our Elders

Lee Williford – chairman  
 Ben Grumbach  
 Ted McKinney – inactive  
 Jim McLaughlin  
 Neal Manning  
 Mike Moneypenny – inactive  
 Jeremy Pittman  
 Brad Talley – teaching elder  
 Bert Wallace

#### Our Deacons

Jay Millard – co-chairman  
 Jason Painter – co-chairman  
 Bryan Ardner  
 Jon Bart  
 Adam Bryant  
 Steven Eisenberg  
 Drew Hanson  
 Paul Jicinsky

Chris Kerns  
Aaron Marino  
Ken Morgan  
Ralph Nichols  
Scott Shamblee  
Josh Tate  
Charlie Williams  
Jason Woodall

### Scripture Associated with the Message

#### Memory verse(s) for November:

**1 Thessalonians 5:16** Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**Acts 14:23** And when they had appointed elders (plural) for them in every church (singular), with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

**Titus 1:5** This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you.

- The Apostle Paul wrote this to his protégé, Titus.
- Elders, plural, in every town – there would not have been more than one church per town on the island of Crete.

**Acts 20:17** Now from Miletus he (Paul) sent to Ephesus and called the **elders of the church** to come to him.

**Acts 20:28 in The New King James Version (a more literal translation emphasizing the shepherding responsibilities of elders and overseers – same office)** Therefore take heed to yourselves (**elders** from verse 17) and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to **shepherd** the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

**1 Peter 5:1** So I exhort the **elders** among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 **shepherd** the flock of God that is among you, exercising **oversight**, not under

compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

**1 Corinthians 6:18** Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? **You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price.** So glorify God in your body.

**Ezekiel 33:1** The word of the Lord came to me: 2 “Son of man, speak to your people and say to them, If I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from among them, and make him their watchman, 3 and if he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the trumpet and warns the people, 4 then if anyone who hears the sound of the trumpet does not take warning, and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. 5 He heard the sound of the trumpet and did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But if he had taken warning, he would have saved his life. 6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any one of them, that person is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.

**James 1:22** But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

**John 5:39** You (Jewish religious leaders) search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me (Jesus), 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.