



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of April 26, 2026

Acts 20:28-38

[28] Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. [29] I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; [30] and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. [31] Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. [32] And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. [33] I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. [34] You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. [35] In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' [36] And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. [37] And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, [38] being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship

- In Paul's final address to the Ephesian elders, he urges them to pay careful attention to themselves. What do you think Paul meant by this and why would he exhort the elders in this way? What should this tell us about our own church leaders, and how we can support them?
- In addition to watching over themselves, Paul also tells the elders to care for the church of God. What do you think this includes? How are the elders of a church supposed to care for its members? What should the elders' primary motivation be as they minister to God's people?
- Paul warns the elders of fierce wolves that will come to attack the church. Who were these wolves and where did they come from? What is the best protection against "fierce wolves" and what is the best way to know when something is fake?
- In verses 32-35, Paul assures the elders that he had no ulterior motives (coveting their silver, gold apparel) but instead wanted to model for them God's design that it is better to give than to receive. How should this act as both an encouragement and a warning to us as we seek to serve the Lord? What ulterior motives might we have when doing ministry?
- Paul entrusts the elders to the care and protection of God and His word of grace. Why is this word of grace absolutely critical for the church? Why must the elders of the church especially be consumed by the word of grace if they are to succeed and finish well in their calling?
- With whom would you shed the most tears when saying a final goodbye and why? What do the tears shed by the Ephesian elders say about Paul's ministry to them and what does this teach us about how we ought to minister to others?