

March 3, 2024
Acts 20:28-38
“Reflection Pool/Prayer Chair”

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Paul warned his preacher boys, guys, when I leave, savage wolves will enter in the congregation to do what savage wolves do. There will even be some among you who will rise up from within with the same agenda-destruction. The one thing they will be after is the truth. They will do all they can to distort truth. GET YOUR GUARD UP! Nothing has changed after all these years.

Paul warns the church leaders of impending persecution from outside and apostasy from within. So, what took place after his departure? Take a few minutes and read **Revelation 2:1-7**. They are recorded as having left their first love, just sad. You’ve got to ask; what happened? Someone let their guard down and in a few short years the church was spiritually adrift. Get on your knees men and women and pray fervently, without ceasing for the spiritual soundness of this church. This happened in Ephesus after Paul invested three years of his life into them, it can happen anywhere.

A shot across the bow for all men called of God as overseers of His church; guard yourselves. Keep your house in order and then, fiercely guard the flock under your care. Note, it is the Holy Spirit who has assigned them to this task. He has placed truly divinely called men in this position. This word “overseer” lends itself to the idea of a “shepherd.” Keep in mind, man of God, this is not your church, it is God’s church, God the Son’s blood purchased it, so lead the flock accordingly.

False teachers are described as wolves. By the second century Asia was a seedbed of heresy. Be vigilant. If it happened all over Asia, it can happen here at LBC.

Application:

The only paradigm upon which to build the church properly is the Bible. They gathered, prayed, and sent the group off with tears. Paul’s ministry was successful because he preached sound doctrine, prayed over them night and day, and genuinely loved the people. Importantly, let it be noted, God approved of his ministry because it was built with clean hands and a pure heart for God. There are no substitutes for the timeless truths of the Bible and vigilant, God called men who take heed of themselves and constantly pray for the flock entrusted to their care. Pastors and leaders, always bear in mind the accounting you will one day have as you stand before Jesus.