



Pay careful attention to yourselves and to the church.

Interchangeable terms: elder, bishop, pastor.

### I. Leadership Model (17-27)

A. The leader's personal life: humble perseverance (19-20)

B. The Leader's Message: The Word (21, 24)

Everything, Everyone, Everywhere

The gospel of grace (24b, 21)

Repentance – Turning from what we have done

Faith – Trusting what He has done

C. The Leader's Purpose (22-24)

1. Constrained by the Holy Spirit.

2. Finish the work given me. (24)

### II. Leadership Charge (28-38)

A. Watch yourselves. (28)

Personal life precedes public life.

B. Care for the Church (28)

1. Ownership: remember whose church it is. (28)

2. Be alert and guard the church from false teachers. (29-31)

3. Rely on God and His Word. (32)

4. Serve others, not yourself. (33-35)

**How does this apply to me?**

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## INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

**I AM READY!**

### PASSAGE OVERVIEW:

As Paul made his way, by ship, towards Jerusalem, he repeatedly visited with Christians wherever the ship came into port. There were believers in city after city. We don't have accounts in Acts of how the gospel reached some of these places, but it was clearly spreading with great speed.

Time and time again, the believers warned Paul of the potential danger that awaited him in Jerusalem. Everyone understood, including Paul, that his work among the Gentiles had fostered significant animosity among the Jews. There was a simmering hatred among leading Jews against this former "star" of theirs who had turned to follow Jesus. Even some of the Jewish Christians struggled with the way in which Paul taught that Gentile believers were on an equal footing with Jewish believers, and they didn't even have to follow all of the Jewish customs.

But it was more than just common knowledge of the possible dangers in Jerusalem that created concern. The warning came from God Himself. The Holy Spirit was clearly speaking to Paul, telling him that he would be bound as a prisoner in the city.

Yet Paul was determined to go to Jerusalem. He had promised to deliver the offering from Greek believers to the saints in Jerusalem. He would keep his word. He was ready for prison, even death, for the sake of Jesus. Long before this trip, Paul had determined that Jesus was his Lord. Jesus had died for him. He was very willing to die for Jesus.

As you read this passage, ask yourself, "Am I ready?" Is your commitment to Christ so complete that you are willing to go wherever He sends you, whatever the cost? Are you ready?

### READING FOR NEXT WEEK

Acts 21:1-16

