

## Sermon Series Topics:

### The Eldership of the Church

- What is a Shepherd? (*August 14th AM Sermon*)
- What are Sheep? (*August 14th PM Sermon*)
- The Shepherd Watches the Sheep. (*August 21st Sermon*)
- The Shepherd Leads the Sheep (*August 21st PM Sermon*)
- The Shepherd Protects the Sheep (*August 28th AM Sermon*)
- The Shepherd Feeds the Sheep (*September 4th AM Sermon*)
- The Shepherd Knows the Sheep (*September 4th PM Sermon*)

### The Deacons of the Church

- Servanthood at its finest (*September 11th AM Sermon*)
- The Efficiency of the Church (*September 11th PM Sermon*)

### The Preachers of the Church

- Minister, Preacher, Evangelist: Which is it? (*September 18th AM Sermon*)
- What Preacher's wish the Church knew about Preaching (*September 18th PM Sermon*)

*Strengthening the Church by  
Strengthening the Leadership*

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## The Shepherd Watches the Sheep

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**Acts 20:28–32**

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. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. 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.

### Nothing like Watching the Sheep

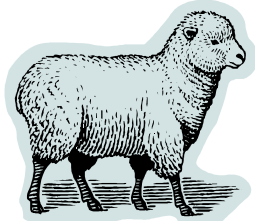
- The shepherds watching over the sheep at night (Luke 2:8).
- Watching the sheep was more than words, it was responsibility:
  - It meant counting the sheep that returned from pasture (Jeremiah 33:13).
  - It meant watching to see if they were sick (Ezekiel 34:16).
  - It meant watching the sheep to protect them from wild animals (1 Samuel 17:34-36, Amos 3:12)

### Remember the value of a sheep

- The one is lost and the shepherd leave the ninety-nine (Luke 15:4-7; see also Ezekiel 34:12).
- Spiritual shepherds watch out for one's soul and must give an account (Hebrews 13:17).
- Each precious soul has been purchased with the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28).

### Reminder of the Spiritual Shepherds:

- Elders or Presbyters – from the Greek word, “presbuteros,” meaning older. (Acts 14:23; 20:17)
- Bishop or Overseer – from the Greek word “episkopos,” meaning one who oversees, to take care of.” (Acts 20:17,28; 1 Peter 5:1-2)
- Pastor – from the Greek word “poimen,” meaning shepherd. (Ephesians 4:11, see also Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-2)



### Today's Spiritual Shepherds:

- “Pay careful attention to yourselves”:
  - Other versions may say, “Take heed to yourselves.”
  - This passages has to do with the spiritual welfare of the spiritual shepherd; mainly the example and faithfulness.
  - “Unless they were living in fellowship with the Lord, they could not expect to be spiritual guides in the church.” (Believer Bible Commentary)
  - (1 Timothy 3:3,4)

### The Importance of Watching the Sheep:

- Spiritual shepherds need to pay attention to the flock (Acts 20:28).
  - Paying attention to the flock as “overseers” and “bishops” (Acts 20:28)
  - Paying attention to the flock means feeding them (Acts 20:28)
    - To shepherd actually means to nourish.
  - Paying attention means watching for trouble (Acts 20:29-31)
    - The trouble may come from without – “fierce wolves.”
    - The trouble may come from within – “from among your own selves.”
- Spiritual shepherds watch (oversee) the sheep
  - Spiritual shepherds oversee the flock “not under compulsion, but willingly.” (1 Peter 5:2)
  - Spiritual shepherds do not domineer over those in their charge, but by example. (1 Peter 5:3)