

# Hope for the Church (through Her Elders)

## *The Trustworthy Signals Which Alarm the Elders*

### **Acts 20:28-31 (Part 5)**

*Sunday, March 1, 2015*

#### **REVIEW:**

*Paul delivered five trustworthy signals which alarmed the elders to care well for the church:*

- 1. The otherworldly selection of the elders by the Spirit, 20:28.**
- 2. The costly redemption of the church by God, 20:28.**
- 3. The deadly invasion of the flock by wolves, 20:29.**
- 4. The lordly separation of the disciples by some elders, 20:30.**
- 5. The daily admonition of each one by Paul, 20:31.**

➔ Last week we looked at what the rest of the NT says about how all of us have the ministry of warning one another, not just the elders. Rm 15:14; 1 Cor 4:14; 10:11; Ep 6:4; Co 1:28; 3:16; 1 Th 5:12, 14; 2 Th 3:14-15.

#### **Principles for wisely delivering warnings:**

- 1. *Feed your tears with Christ-centered Scriptures so you can warn with a broken heart.***
- 2. *Clearly tie your warning to Scripture.***
- 3. *Ask good questions before you warn another.***
- 4. *Purify your motives so as to reach the highest goals in your warning.***

5. *Pray before you warn another.*
6. *Trust God that He has equipped you to be able to warn another.*
7. *Ask yourself often, "How would I like to be warned?"*
8. *Strive for clarity before agreement with your warning.*
9. *Be patient.*

**Principles for willingly receiving warnings:**

1. *Believe that you are in a condition in Christ that needs to be warned at times.*
2. *Remember the blinding, numbing deceiving nature of your indwelling sin.*
3. *Help the one trying to warn you.*
4. *Listen well and ask good questions about their concern.*
5. *Overlook if at all possible, the imperfection tainting the warning.*
6. *Don't believe the lie that you don't have to listen because the warning didn't come to you as you prefer.*

- 7. Refuse the temptation to defend yourself.**
  
- 8. Be patient.**
  
- 9. Prayerfully consider the warning.**
  
- 10. Remember the eternal value of the first warning in Christ you received.**
  
- 11. If you don't agree with your brother, can you both decide to overlook the matter and entrust one another to God's oversight? Or do you need to invite a witness to help you both?**
  
- 12. Don't be surprised if an elder at some point in your life warns you.**