

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.