

**GOSPEL**  
of *Grace*  
FELLOWSHIP

**Acts 20:29-32**  
**Paul Addresses the Ephesian Elders Pt. 10**  
**External & Internal Wolves**

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May 7, 2023

**Warning About External Wolves**

**Acts 20:29 (NASB)**  
I know that after my departure savage **wolves will come in** among you, **not sparing the flock**;

- Paul continues with the shepherd imagery: they must guard against wolves
- Wolves pose a mortal threat to the church
- They have their own agenda and will bring false teaching which will pervert the gospel
- Some will come as lawgivers (Gal. 2:4-5)

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**Warning About Internal Wolves**

**Acts 20:30 (NASB)**  
and **from among your own selves** men will arise, **speaking perverse things**, to draw away the disciples after them.

- Paul later wrote to Timothy in Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:3-7) about false teaching in the church
- The false teaching that will come will be legalistic in some cases and libertine in others (1 Tim. 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 3:1-9).
- See 1 John 2:19-The earliest church fathers linked John to Ephesus in the late 1st century

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**Strange Doctrines Abound**

**1 Timothy 1:3b-5 (NASB)**  
remain on at Ephesus so that you may **instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines**, nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith. But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

- The job of diligently correcting error and teaching truth must stay front and center

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**Stay Awake and Be Concerned**

**Acts 20:31 (NASB)**  
Therefore **be on the alert**, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

- Be on the alert is *gregoreo* (22 times in NT)
- This corresponds to the imperative (guard) vs 28
- The dangers are real, be on guard and awake
- Paul's example showed intense, personal teaching and care for each one
- He did not stop or get distracted

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**The Church Is Protected by God**

**Acts 20:32 (NASB)**  
"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.

- 'Commend' is *paratithemi* which here means to 'entrust them to God for safekeeping' BDAG
- 'Word of His grace' is the gospel and the various implications thereof
- 'Build you up' -- the church is God's building
- 'Inheritance' is *kle\_romomia* (Eph. 1:14; 1 Pet. 1:4)

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