

## **PURCHASE OF THE CHURCH**

During the month of April, we will study a series of lessons on the impact of the Christian Church upon the world.

- Why do religions of the world attack the Christian Church and punish converts to Christianity with excommunication, persecution and even death?
- Why do governments of the world fear the gospel of Jesus Christ when the message is to produce better citizens and better laborers and better businessmen and better people?

“These men who have upset the world have come here also.” (Acts 17:6-9) [religious & city officials of Thessalonica]

We will begin with the idea of how the Christian church became an issue in human history. “Now I rejoice in my suffering for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body (which is the church) in filling up that which is lacking in Christ’s afflictions.” (Col.1:24)

The setting of our lesson text begins in Acts 20:17. Paul called an emergency meeting of the elders of Asia Minor at Miletus. He was in a hurry to get to Jerusalem before Pentecost with the collection for the persecuted Christians of the Jewish church (1 Cor.16:1-4; Acts 20:16).

Paul’s charge to these elders of the Gentile church can be divided into two parts for study (Gal.2:7-8).

- Paul’s ministry to the elders (Acts 20:17-27, 32-38).
- Elder’s ministry to their churches (Acts 20:28-31).

<p><b>We will study Paul’s charge to the elders (presbuteros) [position of ministry experience and authority] by five homiletical points.</b></p>
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### **1. Warning to the elders:**

“Be on guard (prosecho / p.a.impv.2pl) [to turn one’s attention to a specific thing in order to be on guard regarding] for yourselves and for all the flock.” (Acts 20:28a) Why? (Acts 20:29; Matt.10:16-20; Titus 1:5) [elders appoint elders].

### **2. Work of overseer:**

“Among which the Holy Spirit has made (titheimi/ a.m.ind/ 1 Cor.12:11) you overseers (episkopos) [position of responsibility] (1 Tim.3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9), to shepherd (poimaino / p.a.infin) (Eph.4:11; John 21:15-20) feed & care; (Eph.5:29; 1 Tim.3:5) the church of God.” (Acts 20:28b) (1 Pet.2:24-25; 5:1-4)

### **3. Worth of the church:**

[God’s possession] (purchase / (peripoieo / a.m.ind) (Eph.1:14) with His own blood (Acts 20:28c) (Eph.1:7; 1 Cor.6:20; 7:23). One purchase of one flock by one Savior for one Shepherd (John 10:7-18; 1 Pet.2:25; 5:4; 1 John 2:2; 4:9-10).

#### **4. Wolves against the church:**

“I know that after my departure savage (barus) [grievous, burdensome] wolves will come in among you, not sparing (me pheidomai / p.m.ptc) the flock.” (Acts 20:29) (Matt.7:15). Sheep attract wolves and need shepherds (1 Pet.5:1-4; John 10:1-18).

#### **5. Watch out for the church:**

(gregoreo) [sentry on duty] (p.a.impv.2pl) [second command]

“Now from among your own selves (elders) men will arise, speaking perverse things (laleo / p.a.ptc / Diastrepho) [twist] (perf.p.ptc) (1 Tim.1:9-10), to draw away (apospago / p.a.infin) [to wretch away or to seduce] the disciples after them.”

(Acts 20:30-31) Never stop warning (noutheteo / p.a.ptc) [to put in the mind / feed and fend] (John 10:11-13; Eph.6:10-17; 2 Cor.10:4-5) FEED & FEND