

ONE message. people. mission.



Tender Warriors

Acts 20

Main Idea

Pastors of local churches should be Tender Warriors fighting to build & protect the Church that God bought for Himself

Overview

- **Paul doesn't travel alone**
 - Takes fruit from other churches along to model mission & help in the work (Vss 1-6)

- **Picture of an Early Church service**
 - Seem to be meeting on Sunday (vs. 7: using Roman calendar- Vs. 11)
 - Break Bread = Taking of the Lord's Supper
 - Preaching

- **Pastors should model Christ**
 - Serving the Lord (Vs 19)
 - Christ came to serve...so should Pastors (not understand themselves to be served)
 - See Paul wasn't a burden and didn't covet ppl's money (Vss. 33-35)
 - Understood himself as less important than the Gospel (Vs. 24)

- **Pastors should be about making disciples**
 - (Vs. 20) Taught everywhere: Anything that was profitable
 - (Vs. 27) Did not shrink from declaring the WHOLE counsel of God
 - Means he related the entirety of Gods revealed truth
 - Elders must be about the business of building up God's people in truth
 - Also Evangelized the Lost by making know the Gospel of the Grace of God (Vs. 21)
 - Repentance (turning from sin) and Faith (trusting the work of Christ on your behalf)

- **Pastors should be courageous**
 - We see Paul had to endure much to do all of the above (vs. 22-23, 19, 29)
 - Pastors must be men who will stand in the gap for the Sheep of God's pasture
 - Teach the whole counsel of God: Including things people often don't want to hear

- **Pastors must pay careful attention to themselves and the flock**
 - Trinity is wrapped up in church (Church of God, Blood-Son-, Holy Spirit appt Overseers)
 - God bought it at the costly price of His son
 - Wolves are coming....protect and build

- God and the Word of His grace is able to build up the church (vs. 32)

Questions

Discussion starter: What has been your experience with Pastors/Church in the past?

1. How can we practically practice the wise principle of traveling with others in the Mission of God as we see Paul do here and as we know Christ did?
2. How have you been encouraged at seeing the miracles of God in Acts like the raising of Eutychus?
3. Why is it important to discuss the role of Pastors in the church? (Why is this passage in the Bible?)
4. What impact does this discussion have on your life in the day to day?
5. According to Scripture, what are ways in which Pastors “serve the Lord” at the church?
6. Reading this passage and all of the others we see a strong emphasis on Pastors/Elders/Overseers teaching...why do you think that is?
7. In what ways ought Pastors to be Courageous? What does this look like?
8. Why do Pastors need to pay “careful” attention to themselves? Why pay “careful” attention to the flock?
9. What is at stake with Pastors? (20.28, Hebrews 13.17)
10. In what ways do you see the Elders of Restoration Church working these things out?
11. Why is Restoration Church “Word centered”? (Vs. 32)
12. Why is it important that Restoration Church add elders to keep up with the growth of the church?

Accountability Question: Are there people in your life who you still have “blood on your hands?” (vs. 26)