

Chapter 2, Section 3, Motives to the Oversight of the Flock

Having considered the manner in which we are to take heed to the flock, I shall now proceed to lay before you some of the motives to this oversight for Acts 20:28. There are four motives given to cause us to be careful to be diligent and faithful to the oversight of the flock:

1. The nature of our calling is that of an overseer.
 - a. What else is an overseer for but to take heed to the flock?
 - i. This is a calling that requires a lot of labor.
 - ii. We're not idols to bow down to nor given lives to live fully of fleshly delight and ease.
 - iii. We're soldiers given to lead Christ's bad into the sharpest of conflicts where lack of attention to our duty means that some may perish.
 - iv. We're farmers who must pull the weeds of business and cares of the world that threaten to choke out the seed of the Gospel.
 - b. We came to this calling of our own voluntary undertaking and so common honesty binds us to be true to this trust.
 - c. This calling is a great honor.
 - i. We are ambassadors of God used by God as instruments of their conversion and sanctification.
 - ii. We must lay ourselves out for Christ and His Church and so work incessantly for their souls.
 - d. This calling comes with many excellent privileges.
 - i. If we'll not do the work then we'll have nothing to do with the privileges.
 - ii. Our income and lives are maintained by the labor of others and so need to give ourselves wholly to the care of the church.
 - iii. We are given the privilege of great learning and delightful knowledge such that it is our work to be daily busy at studying and preaching Christ!
 - iv. It is as if we have the privilege of keeping a continual Sabbath and so get to do nothing else but study and talk of God and His glory.
 - e. By this calling we are related to Christ as well as to the flock.
 - i. If we are true to Christ and so should never doubt that He will be true to us. If we are faithful to feeding and caring for His flock, then He will be faithful in caring for and feeding us.
2. The Holy Spirit has made us overseers of His church.
 - a. The Holy Spirit makes men overseers by:
 - i. Qualifying them to the office.
 - ii. By directing the ordainers to discern their qualifications.
 - iii. By directing the people and the overseers to a specific call to a local church.
 - b. This lays an obligation upon us because of the Spirit's work.
3. The church belongs to God.
 - a. We have been given stewardship over God's own family and shall we neglect it?
 - b. Because it is God's, it deserves our best care.
4. Christ purchased the church by His own blood.
 - a. Shall we despise the blood of Christ? Doesn't the fact that Christ shed His blood make them worthy of our utmost care?
 - b. Every time we look upon our congregations, let us believingly remember that they are the purchase of Christ's blood, and therefore should be regarded by us with the deepest interest and the most tender affection.