

**INTRODUCTION:**

**1. PAUL EXHORTED THE EPHESIAN ELDERS USING SHEPHERD IMAGERY (20:28).**

a. Shepherd imagery appears throughout the OT.

b. Shepherd imagery appears throughout the NT.

(1) *Christ as shepherd*

(2) *Apostles as shepherds*

(3) *Elders/pastors of congregations as shepherds*

**2. PAUL, ACCORDING TO GOD'S HEART, EXHORTED THE EPHESIAN ELDERS (20:17-38)**

a. Paul summoned the Ephesian elders and exhorted them (20:17-21).

b. Paul told warned them about future events (20:22-27).

c. Paul then exhorted the elders to feed God's people (20:28-31).

d. Paul commended them to God's grace, warned them of covetousness, and bid them farewell (20:32-38).

**3. PAUL COMMANDED THE EPHESIAN SHEPHERDS TO FEED GOD'S BLOOD-BOUGHT FLOCK (20:28).**

a. What is a church? (Paragraph 2).

- b. There are no perfect churches in this world (Paragraph 3).**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c. Christ is the only Head of His churches (Paragraph 4).**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- d. Christ the Head of the churches saves His people and gathers them into local congregations (Paragraph 5).**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- e. The members of a biblical congregation (Paragraph 6).**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- f. Each congregation has sufficient authority from Christ the Head (Paragraph 7).**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- g. The composition of a biblical congregation (Paragraph 8):**

**CONCLUSION:**