

**GOSPEL**  
of *Grace*  
FELLOWSHIP

**Acts 20:27-30**  
**Paul Addresses the Ephesian Elders**  
**Pt. 6 The Whole Purpose of God**  
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**Comprehensive Proclamation of  
God's Revealed Counsel**

**Acts 20:27 (NASB)**  
For I did not shrink from declaring to you  
the **whole purpose of God**.

- The revealed purpose (*boule*) must be taught or the statement in vs 26 would not be true
- This includes God's plan of Messianic salvation for Jews and Gentiles
- This includes God's promises, future judgment, and the definition and ministries of the church

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**The Calling and Duties of Local  
Church Leaders**

**Acts 20:28 (NASB)**  
"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to **shepherd** the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

- "Guard" is imperative in the Greek
- Overseers is *episkopos*
- Shepherd is the verb *poimaino*
- The Holy Spirit set overseers in the church

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**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 Timothy 3:1-9).
- See 1 John 2:19; The earliest church fathers linked John to Ephesus in the late 1<sup>st</sup> century

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