

An Urgent Appeal to Church Leadership, Part 3.

A Serious Charge

September 26, 2021

What would a want ad for elders look like?

How can elders fulfill this charge?

Pay Careful Attention to Yourself

Elders must watch over their own souls. (Proverbs 4:23; 1 Timothy 4:16)

Pay Careful Attention to all the Flock (Hebrews 13:17)

All the flock - Even those that are difficult to keep track of.

Spiritual leadership must maintain and promote godly relationships with all the flock.

The requirements of this office are beyond our ability to fulfill them.

Where is the encouragement? Where is the hope to fulfill such a task?

The Holy Spirit has made you an overseer

God wants you there. He has chosen you, and he will empower you.

You are God's chosen under-shepherd.

He cares for his sheep, in part, by sending you.

Jesus is the great shepherd of the sheep.

It is a relationship of servant leadership. (1 Peter 5:2-3)

God has structured spiritual shepherding in such a way that we must depend on him to complete the task. And he will not forsake us.

Beware of False Leaders from Outside the Church v 29

"Faithfulness to correct doctrine and loyalty to the creeds is not the same thing as trust in the God whom the creeds describe." Allison

Dogma is not the destination. Knowing God is!!

Our children need to know the truth.

Beware of False Teachers from Within the Church, v 30

They will draw disciples after them, and not after Christ.

Paul commends them to God, and to the Word of his Grace v 32

To God himself, notice this is first and foremost.

To his Word of grace, unmerited favor

We walk in this inheritance now.

Parting Sorrow v 36-38

The fellowship that develops around ministry is intense, personal, satisfying.

God is shepherding his church.

Elders, pay careful attention to yourselves, and to the flock of God.

Brothers and sister, recognize and benefit from the service and sacrifice of your elders.

The goal is to grow the fellowship, to deepen relationship with God and with others, through service and sacrifice. We are to love one another deeply.