

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 30, 2007

Passage: Acts 20:25-38

Memory Passage: 2 Timothy 2:15

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 20:25-27.** What did Paul consider his primary responsibility to the church? What did he say was the responsibility of these elders in the church of God (Acts 20:28)?
- (b) Paul describes the gospel as the “gospel of the grace of God.” Why is grace essential for the gospel (Romans 4:4; Romans 11:6; Ephesians 2:8-9)?
- (c) What else is a responsibility for the church (2 Timothy 4:5)? Why did Paul believe he was free from the blood of all men? What is this a reference to (Ezekiel 3:18-19; Ezekiel 33:2-9)? What lesson does this have for believers today?
- (d) What was Paul’s desire when he taught the whole counsel of God (1 Thessalonians 2:4; Colossians 1:28)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Acts 20:25-27. Talk about the gospel. What is the gospel? Why must it be of grace? What is our responsibility in terms of sharing the gospel? Pray that God will give you an opportunity this week to tell someone about God’s wonderful grace.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 20:28.** Why does Paul tell these men to first “teach heed to yourselves” (1 Timothy 4:16)? What happens when God’s servants put the business of the church ahead of their own spiritual growth?
- (b) What did Paul tell Timothy to do to be a good servant of God (2 Timothy 2:15)? What did he compare God’s servant to in 2 Timothy 2:19-22? What is the difference in these vessels?
- (c) What does Paul call the church of God in Acts 20:28? How does one become part of this flock (John 10:1-15)? How is Jesus different from all the shepherds that came before him?
- (d) According to 1 Peter 5:1-4, what is the primary responsibility of the elders? Compare this to what Paul says in Acts 20:28?
- (e) What should be the motivation of these elders (Acts 20:28)? What does this passage also tell us about *the deity* of Jesus?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 20:28 and 2 Timothy 2:15. Why is a personal devotional time essential for growing in the Lord? Why does Paul tell these leaders to “take heed to themselves” first of all? Can a person be a leader without spending time with God? Pray for yourself and your leaders that time with God might be the source of your strength.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 20:29-31.** What warning does Paul give these elders? Compare this to what Jesus had told his disciples in Matthew 7:15-20. What does this say about the life of a spiritual leader?
- (b) What does a false leader do when these wolves bring conflict into the church (John 10:12)? What do these passages tell us about the responsibility of the elders to protect the flock doctrinally (Titus 1:9-16)?
- (c) How should leaders respond to false teachers (1 Timothy 1:3-4)? How should we respond to false leaders (2 Timothy 3:1-5)? What are some characteristics of these false teachers that help us identify them?
- (d) What did Paul warn Timothy about and encourage him to do in 2 Timothy 4:3-5?
- (e) Why does Paul mention his tears in Acts 20:31? What does this tell us about Paul’s heart? What does this tell us about the heart of leaders in God’s church (1 Peter 5:1-4)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 20:29-31. Talk about false teachers. Where do they come from? How can we identify them? What is the responsibility of the elders toward them? Pray for your elders as they protect the church from false teachers and false teaching.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 20:32.** What does Paul commend these elders to first of all (Acts 14:23)? How does our understanding of God’s sovereignty affect the way we will respond to difficulties within the church?
- (b) What is the second thing that Paul commends them to? What does Paul say it is able to do for them? Can a person grow in grace without being in the Word? Can a person be protected from deception apart from God’s Word?
- (c) According to 1 Timothy 6:3-5, what should a true servant of God give priority to? What are some ways that Paul gives Timothy of identifying false teachers?
- (d) What is the result of biblically taught believers (Ephesians 4:11-16)? How does this protect the flock? Can this be done apart from teaching the Word?
- (e) What does Paul mean about their faithfulness in the Word giving them an inheritance (Acts 20:32)? Is this salvation or rewards (compare Colossians 3:22-25; 1 Corinthians 3:8; 1 Peter 3:8-9; 1 Peter 5:4)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 20:32 and Ephesians 4:11-16. Why is the teaching of the Word of God so important for the church? What happens when God’s people are consistently taught God’s Word? Pray for those who will teach the Word this week.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 20:33-38.** What did Paul say regarding finances and his motivation to serve? What attitudes toward finances should elders have (1 Timothy 3:3; 1 Peter 5:2)? Why is this important for leaders (1 Timothy 6:9-10)?
- (b) How did Paul provide for his own needs? Did he only provide for himself or did he see his work as an opportunity to provide for others (Acts 20:34)? What should be one reason that we work (Ephesians 4:28)?
- (c) What was one thing he was teaching them by meeting the needs of others (Acts 20:35)? What principle guided Paul's life of giving (Acts 20:35)?
- (d) What do Galatians 6:10 and Hebrews 13:16 tell us about caring for the needs of others?
- (e) What indicates the love that these brothers had for each other (2 Timothy 1:4)? Why would genuine love of others also be an essential characteristic of spiritual leaders?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 20:33-38. What should be one of a believer's financial goals? Why is it more blessed to give than to receive? Ask the Lord to show you some way that you can learn more about the joy of giving.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 20:25-38. What are the responsibilities of the elders of a church? Why is the Word of God the most important one? How does knowing the Word help them to protect the flock from "wolves?" Pray for those who will teach the Word tomorrow that God's Word might help believers to grow in maturity.

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The Responsibility of God's Servant
"the church of God which He obtained with His own blood..."