

OVERSEER OF GRACE

In his farewell address to the church of Ephesus, Paul warns a spiritually healthy church of the danger of apostate teachers attack upon New Covenant Grace Doctrines, both from inside and from outside the healthy church.

Five titles are given to the pastor-teacher of a local church. **Overseer** is one of these five used in our lesson text.

- **Teacher** (didaskalos) **Spiritual Gifted**
 - (Eph.4:11) ¹¹ And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and **teachers**,
- **Pastor** (poimen) **Shepherd** [feed the local flock]
 - (Eph.4:11) ¹¹ And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* **pastors** and teachers,
- **Elder** (presbuteros) **Authority** [spiritual leadership maturity for outreach]
 - (Acts 20:17) ¹⁷ From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the **elders** of the church.
- **Minister** (diakonos) **Specialized ministry of the church;**
 - (Rom.15:16a) ¹⁶ to be a **minister** of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles,
- **Overseer** (episkopos) **Over-sight of function** of the grace church – our lesson.
 - (Acts 20:28) ²⁸ 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.

<u>Seven aspects of Overseer (oversight) of the church function of God's grace.</u>
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Our study is taken from an excerpt (Acts 20:28-31) from Paul's sermon at the Ephesus Church Conference (Acts 20:17-38).

1. Warning to overseers of grace

(Acts 20:28a) "Be on guard (**prosecho/ p.a.impv.2pl**) for yourselves and the flock."

2. Work of grace overseer

(Acts 20:28b) "Among whom the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God."

3. Worth of church to grace overseer

(Acts 20:28c) "Which He purchased with His own blood."

4. Wolves outside attack grace overseer's church

(Acts 20:29) "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock."

5. Wolves inside attack grace overseer's church

(Acts 20:30) "And from among your own selves' men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them."

6. Watchdog of grace overseer for church

(Acts 20:31) "Therefore be on the alert (**gregoreo/ p.a.impv.2pl**), remember that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears."

7. Word of God's grace is ministry of overseer

(Acts 20:32) "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified."