**Take Heed To Yourselves (Acts 20:28) by Gary Colley**

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**Acts 20:28-29—“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made the overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. (29) For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.”**

**Let’s look at the word “heed” (prosecho)**

1. **To hold the mind towards**
2. **Pay attention**
3. **Be cautious about**
4. **Apply oneself to**
5. **Adhere to**
6. **Attend to**
7. **Adhere to**
8. **Beware**
9. **Have regard**

**Take Heed is mentioned 64 times in the KJV**

**Jesus often said he wants me to pay attention to myself:**

**Matthew 6:1 “Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.”**

**When I am around young Christians:**

**Matthew 18:10 “Take heed that ye despise not on of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.”**

**When I hear a Gospel sermon:**

**Luke 8:18 “Take heed therefore how you hear; for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.”**

**When I consider material things and their importance in my life:**

**Luke 12:15 “Take heed, beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”**

**When someone wrongs me and I am ask to forgive:**

**Luke 17:3 “Take heed to yourselves: if your brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.”**

**Paul urges us to take heed when we disagree with our brethren:**

**Galatians 5:15 “But if you bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.”**

**Take Heed Concerning The Eldership:**

**I Timothy 3: 1-11**

**An Elder must be blameless (again take heed to yourselves)**

**(The idea here is that an elder must be a man who possesses a keen conscience about his character, his actions, and his influence. There is no outstanding sin existing in his life upon which wayward church members or outside critics might seize and say, “See, you’re no better than we! You’re a hypocrite!”**

**An elder calls himself to consider the health of his conscience. Is the Word training his conscience, and is it bearing on his character.**

**A good conscience in a man will motivate him to do the right thing in every situation. With his knowledge of the Bible, that conscience will follow him wherever he goes.**

**The conscience is not the value system of the elder but the value system based on the scriptures.**

**Romans 13: 1-6 “(1) Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: The powers that be ordained of God. (2) Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. (3) For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same. (4) For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. (5) Wherefore you must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. (6) For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God’s ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.”**

**A mans well trained conscience will change his mind from planning to do wrong to righteous intent.**

**John 8: 1-12**

**God knew that elders were good men, yet he also knew that they were mere men and subject to temptations, and that they would become enticing trophies for the Devil.**

**An elder must be blameless in reference to women, treating them with respect.**

**An elder must exemplify good family leadership. His role as a husband and father must come before his role as an elder.**

**An elder must be a serious student of the Bible.**

**Psalms 119:105 everything an elder must do must be centered on God’s word. “(105) Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”**

**An elder cannot have just a surface knowledge of the Bible. He must study to show himself approved of God. By doing this he will be able to confront problems in the future.**

**An elder must be careful about his tone.**

**How a man is perceived is not necessarily reflective of what’s in his heart. An elder’s motives may be clean, but his persona may not be**

**An elder must be careful not to burn out.**