

ELDERS

Paul gives elders a great warning in Acts 20:28-31 saying, *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed (shepherd NASB) the church of God which he hath purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure shall grievous (savage NASB) wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them? Therefore watch and remember (be on alert NASB)...”*

The church of the Lord needs shepherds who...

Are men of Prayer, who will humbly approach the throne of God for wisdom and guidance in feeding His flock?

Are men of Integrity, who are not easily tempted by the allurements of words?

Are men of Knowledge, who dedicate themselves to the frequent, fervent and diligent study of the Word?

Are men of Experience, who have endured trials and temptations successfully?

Are men of Conviction, who will take a firm stand on the truths of God's Word?

Are men of Vigilance, ever on the lookout for danger, and things that would harm the sheep?

Are men of Love, who will devote themselves fully to nurturing the sheep?

Are men of Compassion, who will diligently search for the sheep who have strayed, gently returning them to the fold?

Are men of Zeal, who will spur the local church into activities seeking and saving the lost.

Are men of Stout Heart, who will courageously defend the flock from wolves within and without?

With God's help and our prayers, the eldership here at Hartselle Church of Christ, will continue to follow these characteristics, and continue to improve on their responsibilities outlined above. *“This is a true saying, if a man desires the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work”* (1 Timothy 3:1). All men should strive to desire this work. There is nothing in this earth that can equal serving our God than being a bishop.

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