

**"Watching Over God's Flock"  
(Acts 20:28)**

Today we will consider the biblical role of a pastor, and the importance for all of us to do our part as we serve in God's church. He calls pastors to . . .

**I. "TAKE HEED"**

*"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock"*

- **To Your SELF**  
(Mk 13:9; Lk 17:3; 21:34; 1 Tim 4:16; Ps 139:23; 1 Cor 9:27)
- **To God's SHEEP**  
(Mat 18:12-13; Lk 12:32)

**II. "LEAD"**

*"over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers"*

- **By God's PLACEMENT**  
(1 Tim 1:12; 2:7; 2 Tim 1:11; Jn 15:16)
- **For God's PURPOSE**  
(1 Pet 2:25; 5:2-3; Heb 13:17)

**III. "FEED"**

*"to feed the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood"*

- **WHO to Feed**  
(Jn 21:15-17; 1 Pet 5:2)
- **WHY to Feed Them**  
(Jn 10:11, 14; 17:15-17; Eph 4:11-12; 5:27; 2 Cor 11:1)

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**Small Group Discussion Guide**

**Icebreaker:** God compares his church to a precious flock of sheep. Share about a pet that you have (had) that is (was) special to you.

1. Share something from Sunday's study that spoke to you personally – a challenge? an encouragement? a good reminder?
2. Why is it an important priority that we "take heed to ourselves" first in our service to the Lord? What are some practices we could/should have that would help us to take heed to ourselves?
3. Why is the word "ALL" so important in the phrase "all the flock?" What should we do when someone in the flock has been missing church?
4. How can a pastor lead pro-actively ("taking the oversight") without "lording over" the church? (See 1 Pet 5:2-4) What are the pastor's responsibilities in shepherding the flock, and what are the congregation's responsibilities?

**Digging Deeper**

1. Note the repetition of "*take heed to yourselves*" in the following verses and jot down what each verse exhorts us to guard against. (Mk 13:9; Lk 17:3; 21:34; and 1 Tim 4:16. What exhortations do Ps 139:23 and 1 Cor 9:27 offer? Prayerfully commit to heed these warnings.
2. What are some responsibilities of pastors to their people according to Eph 4:11-12; 1 Tim 4:12; 2 Tim 2:2; 4:2, 5; Titus 1:7; and 1 Pet 5:2-4? What are some responsibilities of people to their pastors according to Gal 6:6; 1 Thes 5:12-13; 2 Thes 3:1; 1 Tim 5:17-19; and Heb 13:7, 17?
3. Note how God has always had a heavy hand of accountability on the leaders of His people by reviewing these verses: Is 9:16; Jer 5:31; 50:6; Ezek 34:1-6; Zech 10:3; Mat 5:14; 9:36-38; 23:1-4; Jas 3:1

**For Next Week**

Read Isaiah 1:1-20 several times and jot down your observations. What is the general tone of this passage? How does it show God's anger toward sin and also his mercy and grace toward his people?