

**Unhindered
The Book of Acts
Leading and Guarding the Church
Acts 20:28-32**

- **Introduction**
 - “All pastors do all day is read the Bible and play golf.” That is what some believe, it is not true.
 - John 21:15–17
 - Church leaders are to shepherd, guard, and keep gospel centered the congregations that God has entrusted to them.
- **Church leaders shepherd the congregation.**
 - Leaders must pay close attention to themselves.
 - 1 Peter 5:2–3
 - Three areas specifically: Heart, Doctrine, Relationships
 - Proverbs 4:23; Titus 1:7–9
 - Leaders must pay attention to all the congregation.
 - Leaders are Holy Spirit appointed.
 - Leaders are like shepherds who guard their flocks.
 - Leaders care for the people.
 - Leaders feed God’s word.
 - Leaders protect from “spiritual wolves.”
 - Leaders remember it is Jesus’ church not theirs.
- **Church leaders guard the congregation from false teachers.**
 - Church leaders must be doctrinally knowledgeable.
 - Church leaders must be aware and alert to the connection between heresy and sin.
 - Church leaders must keep in mind the destructive results of false doctrine.
 - Church leaders warn and protect because of love.
- **Church leaders seek to keep the congregation gospel centered.**
 - Gospel centered by focusing on God.
 - Revelation 2:2–4
 - Gospel centered by focusing on grace.
 - When we focus on the word we focus on grace, which keeps our focus on God.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:26–31
- **Conclusion**
 - For the church to go out into the world unhindered it must have people who are willing to lead and guard the church family from that which seeks to threaten its witness to the world.
 - *“Pastoral leadership is rooted in the responsibility of living as an under-shepherd with eyes fixed on the Chief Shepherd.”* Michael Wilder and Timothy Paul Jones