

## Ephesians and the Elders of Ephesus

- Acts 20:17-35 -

- A. Paul stayed in \_\_\_\_\_ 3 years pouring his heart into the growth of the Ephesians faith, soundness, and purity of life...
- B. In spite of steady opposition and persecution, these brethren grew to the point of having elders... What Paul says to these elders is a message for every church and their elders...

### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.19; Ephesians 4:1,2)

- A. The work of God can never be accomplished with pride and self-glorification... Elders cannot be 'lording' their duty (1 Pet 5:3). They should serve as examples to the flock...
- B. Paul hope that humility would be emulated in the Ephesians (Eph 4:1,2). We are not better than anyone else, but we are as good as God makes me...
- C. No one will be more committed, grow, serve, love, respect, teach, endure, or be closer to God than the humble...

### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ (v.20,27, Eph 4:15,25)

- A. Paul did not withhold from the Ephesians what they needed
- B. He was not frightened by the response of those who heard. It was God's "counsel" he knew must be delivered...
- C. No church will survive on \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. The gospel and daily communications should be spoken with the \_\_\_\_\_ in mind (Eph 4:15; 6:17)... It is the only way growth in a church will occur (Acts 20:32; Eph 3:20).
- E. This word of truth will bring an inheritance (Eph 1:13-18). Therefore, it must be lived (Eph 4:25).

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ You Are \_\_\_\_\_ (v.28)

- A. These elders needed to watch how they walk. If not how can they direct others (Eph 2:10; 4:17; 5:2,8,15-17).
- B. Why is important to watch what you are doing?

### 4. Beware of the \_\_\_\_\_ (v.29,30, Eph 4:14)

- A. Elders with wisdom and experience should warn the flock of approaching wolves (Tit 2:2-7)
- B. Compare Acts 20:29,30 with Eph 4:13,14...
- C. Note 5 things about a local church in Eph 4:11-16....
- D. (1) Christ is the central issue...  
(2) Emphasis on unity (v.12,13,16)...  
(3) Everyone is exhorted to Grow...  
(4) A faithful focus, holding to sound teaching and training  
(5) A living, active body (v.16), a body at work...
- E. Paul's desire was to "accomplish my course" (Acts 20:24). He did (2 Tim 4:7,8)... Will You?