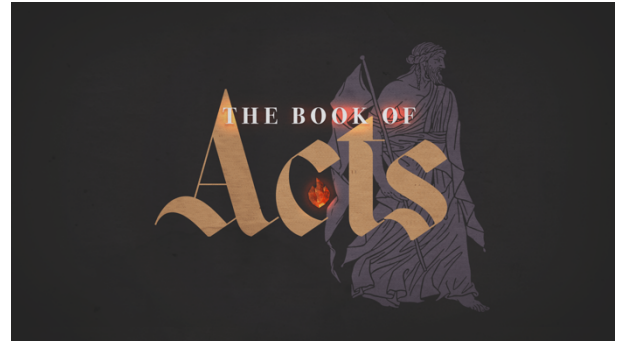

Life Group Questions / September 21, 2025

The Book of Acts
56 – Pay Careful Attention
Acts 20:28-31



1. Harvest's ministry practice is based on the understanding that, elders protect the church, staff leads the church, members serve as the church, and the world receives their ministry (Don Cousins, *Leadershift*). This is based on Ephesians 4:11-12. Share with one another what your part in that is. Are you "paying careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock" in that?
2. Thinking about the church being "obtained with his own blood" (Acts 20:28b), consider how your life reflects the great cost that Jesus paid for you to be forgiven and saved? Share with others the impact on your life that the blood of Christ has had.
3. What are the best ways for you to remain unaffected by the threats to the church and the purity of the gospel message?
4. Testimony time: when have you let emotions get in the way of right belief? What did you do to get out of it? Review the John Piper quote and Psalm 119:105 and re-commit yourself to prioritizing the Word in your life.

My feelings are not God. God is God. My feelings do not define truth. God's word defines truth. My feelings are echoes and responses to what my mind perceives. And sometimes—many times—my feelings are out of sync with the truth. When that happens—and it happens every day in some measure—I try not to bend the truth to justify my imperfect feelings, but rather, I plead with God: Purify my perceptions of your truth and transform my feelings so that they are in sync with the truth —John Piper, Finally Alive.

Series: The Book of Acts
Message: 56 – Pay Careful Attention
Text: Acts 20:28-31
Todd Dugard
Harvest Bible Chapel
September 21, 2025

I must pay careful attention to myself and the church.

Why? Because that's the calling (v. 28a)

Ephesians 4:11-12

Ephesians 4:15b-16

These elders/overseers...must keep watch over themselves, taking care of their own theological, spiritual, and ethical integrity. If they do not nurture themselves, they cannot take care of others.
— Eckhard J. Schnabel

Why? Because Jesus paid dearly for her (v. 28b)

Luke 22:20

Hebrews 9:14

Hebrews 9:22b

1 John 1:7

Why? Because the threats against her are fierce (v. 29-30)

Matthew 7:15

Why? Because the Word compels it (v. 31)

My feelings are not God. God is God. My feelings do not define truth. God's word defines truth. My feelings are echoes and responses to what my mind perceives. And sometimes—many times—my feelings are out of sync with the truth. When that happens—and it happens every day in some measure—I try not to bend the truth to justify my imperfect feelings, but rather, I plead with God: Purify my perceptions of your truth and transform my feelings so that they are in sync with the truth.
— John Piper, Finally Alive.

Psalms 119:105