

God, Life and Ministry – Part 3

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I. Introduction.

II. We must take heed to ourselves. (Acts 20:28; Hebrews 10:31; Psalm 50:16-17)

- A. We must live what we preach. (Mark 4:19)
- B. We need to be adequately prepared to minister.
- C. We need to make sure that we are saved. (2 Corinthians 13:5)
- D. We need to recognize that there is a depraved nature still in us. (Genesis 4:7; 1 Corinthians 10:12)
- E. We are better targets for Satan than most people.
- F. We carry with us the reputation of Jesus. (2 Corinthians 6:3)
- G. We must feed the flock of God.

III. How we should take heed to ourselves. (Hosea 6:6; Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; Matthew 25)

- A. Feed on the Word.
- B. Maintain fellowship with God.
- C. Be in fellowship with other believers.
- D. Be accountable to God and men.

IV. We must take heed to the flock of God.

- A. Your flock is your family.
- B. Your flock includes those who you are to look after.
- C. Your flock includes those who are not yet found. (Proverbs 27:23)
 - 1. Major on the majors.
 - 2. Keep it simple.
 - 3. Always love and never give up.
 - 4. Be humble. (1 Peter 5:5)
- D. Watch out for authoritarianism.

V. We must be men of vision.

- A. God wants us to see first and foremost himself.
- B. God wants us to see the lost. (Matthew 9)
- C. God wants us to see the world. (Revelation 5:9)
- D. God wants us to see things from God's point of view. (Colossians 1; 1 Peter 1:6-7; Isaiah 30:20; Psalm 133:1; Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; 2 Peter 1:4-8; James 3:7; John 13:34)
- E. God wants us to have a vision of our own.
- F. God wants men of vision who have nonnegotiable convictions. (Acts 20:24; 5:29)
- G. God wants men who have the Great Commission as part of their vision. (Mark 16:15)
- H. Vision helps us to focus our lives.
- I. Real vision provides meaning and purpose. (Proverbs 29:18; Job 42; Acts 27:21ff; Matthew 27; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Isaiah 9:2; Psalm 130:6; 30:5)

Application questions:

1. What does it mean to take heed to ourselves?

2. What are some ways you can better take heed of God's flock?

3. How would you articulate your life vision in a sentence?
