

## Be On Guard for Yourself

**Acts 20:28 HCSB** Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which He purchased with His own blood.

### Introduction:

Paul told the Ephesian elders to first “be on guard for” themselves, then to their flocks. That’s good advice for parents and children’s workers too.

#### 1. Take a Little Time for Yourself

If you don’t take care of yourself, how can you take care of the kids?

- **Mark 6:31 HCSB** He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a remote place and rest a while." For many people were coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.

#### 2. Maintain Your Daily Quiet Time

Sure, you’re busy; but if nothing else, keep an open Bible near you and take advantage of a minute here and a moment there.

- **Proverbs 8:34 HCSB** Anyone who listens to me is happy, watching at my doors every day, waiting by the posts of my doorway.

#### 3. Take Your Ministry to Children Seriously

This passage is Christ’s sermon to parents and children’s workers.

- **Matthew 18:1-14 HCSB** At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" **2** Then He called a child to Him and had him stand among them. **3** "I assure you," He said, "unless you are converted and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. **4** Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child--this one is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. **5** And whoever welcomes one child like this in My name welcomes Me. **6** "But whoever causes the downfall of one of these little ones who believe in Me--it would be better for him if a heavy millstone were hung around his neck and he were drowned in the depths of the sea! **7** Woe to the world because of offenses. For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes. **8** If your hand or your foot causes your downfall, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into the eternal fire. **9** And if your eye causes your downfall, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, rather than to have two eyes and be thrown into hellfire! **10** "See that you don't look down on one of these little ones, because I tell you that in heaven their angels continually view the face of My Father in heaven. **11** [For the Son of Man has come to save the lost.] **12** What do you think? If a man has 100 sheep, and one of them goes astray, won't he leave the 99 on the hillside and go and search for the stray? **13** And if he finds it, I assure you: He rejoices over that sheep more than over the 99 that did not go astray. **14** In the same way, it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones perish.

#### 4. Serve the Lord With Gladness Are your children learning *joy* from you?

- **Psalms 100:2 HCSB** Serve the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.

#### 5. Trust God With the Results

- **1 Corinthians 15:58 HCSB** Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

**Conclusion:** Our great task as moms and dads is to nurture our children into the faith.