

A Call to Diligence

145

The value of God's church makes diligent attention on all levels essential.

- ²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.
Acts 20:28 (ESV)

146

The threats against God's church make diligent attention on all levels essential.

- ²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.
Acts 20:29-30 (ESV)

147

God's activity in His church makes diligent attention possible and fruitful.

- ³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.
Acts 20:32 (ESV)

148

The faithful, sacrificial service of those who have gone before us inspires us to give diligent attention to God's church.

- ³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears... ³³ I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵ In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" ³⁶ And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷ And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, ³⁸ being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship. Acts 20:31,33-38 (ESV)