

CHALLENGES FACING THE CHURCH

Acts 20:28-32

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH [ACTS 20:28]

A. ITS INCEPTION: WHEN CHRIST STARTED HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY

[Rev.1:5; Rom.10:13; Acts 16:31; Jn.3:16]

B. ITS IMPACT: SALVATION OF SOULS, THE TRANSFORMATION OF LIVES

C. ITS INDISPENSABILITY: THE ONLY INSTITUTION GOD USES FOR THE PRESENT DISPENSATION [Matt.5:13]

II. THE INSURRECTION AGAINST THE CHURCH [ACTS 20:29-30]

A. ENEMIES FROM WITHOUT [Acts 20:29]

-Analogy of the “wolves”

1. Move around **AS A PACK**
2. Typically, **OPERATE IN THE DARK**
3. Attack the **YOUNG, WEAK AND SICKLY** [Eph.4:27; 2 Cor.2:11]
4. Attack **SUBTLY** [Gen.3]

B. ENEMIES FROM WITHIN [Acts 20:30]

-Beware of petty differences, strife, divisive and contentious spirit etc.
Instead, practice the following:

1. **DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE** [1 Cor.13:1-3; Matt.22:39; Gal.5:1]
2. **HAVE A FORGIVING SPIRIT** [Matt.18:21-35; Matt.5:23-24]
3. **VALUE OTHERS ABOVE YOURSELF.** [Phil.2:3-5; Rom.12:10; 3 Jn.9-10; Rom.16:17; 2 Thess.3:6; 2 Thess.3:14-15; Matt.12:25; 1 Cor.1:10; Acts 20:28]

III. THE INVINCIBILITY OF THE CHURCH [ACTS 20:31-32]

A. DEPEND ON GOD [Matt.16:18; Col.1:18; Matt.18:20]

B. DEEPEN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

1. **PRAYER** [James 5:16]
2. **THE WORD OF GOD** [2 Tim.2:15]