



**Topeka Bible Church**  
**The Life of Paul, Episode 36:**  
**"The Church that Cries 'Wolf!'"**  
**Community Group Study Questions**  
**Acts 20:28-31 and selected passages**

1. Why did Paul think it was so important to warn these men to be on their guard (Acts 20:28)? For what should they be on their guard? How does this passage emphasize the importance of elders within the church today (1 Peter 5:1-4)?
  
2. How does an elder serve as an "overseer" and "shepherd?" What is the difference, if any, between those two roles? Why is shepherding such a big deal to God (Ezekiel 34:1-5; Matthew 9:36; John 10:11)? What happens when a shepherd fails to do his job well?
  
3. How does Acts 20:28 illustrate the Trinity? Why is it important to understand that God the Father did not die on the cross? Why is the shed blood of Jesus Christ significant (Romans 3:25; 5:8-9; Ephesians 1:7; 2:13; Colossians 1:19-20; Revelation 5:9)?
  
4. Who were these "savage wolves" about whom Paul warned the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:29-30; Matthew 7:15)? What threat did these wolves pose (cf. John 10:12)? What eventually happened at the church in Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-2)?

5. Do we see “wolves” in our churches today (*1 Timothy 1:5-7*)? Have you ever encountered these “wolves” at any church? What happened? How do we see dangerous false teaching in our culture today (*2 Timothy 4:3-5*)? What can we do in response to this false teaching (*1 Timothy 4:6-7; Titus 1:9*)?
  
6. What are the seven essential doctrines of orthodox Christianity? Do you agree that all of these are essential? Why or why not? Do you think that this list should include additional doctrines? Which one(s)? Why might it not be considered “essential” for orthodoxy?
  
7. In light of Paul’s warning to be alert (*Acts 20:31*), how can we sharpen our theological “senses” in order to detect heresy (*Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:97*)? Do you need to talk to a staff member or elder about any of the essential doctrines? Do you know anyone who’s teaching contradicts any of the essential doctrines?

**Memory Verse:**

**“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”**

**(Acts 20:28, NASB)**