Protecting the Lambs

Thank you

- To the congregation at Murray Road for stepping up and hosting this meeting.
- I know you will be blessed as a congregation for taking on this work.
- To all who are present at this meeting.
- I hope that the thoughts that we share today and throughout this meeting will help to further equip you as you serve the Lord.

I cannot help but miss some who have gone on to be with the Lord

- Chryste Evans
- Tom Woody

I also cannot help but be thankful for those who are here

- There is still work for us all to do the few remaining days that we have here on this earth.

Have you noticed the resemblance between various members of the church?

- John Morris
- Tad Morris
- Eric Owens
- Duane Proudfit
- Jim Pryde
- Brad Rankin
- Grant Riggins
- D. D. Russell

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Acts 20:28 – 31

[28]Therefore take heed to yourselves and to 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. [29]For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. [30]Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. [31]Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

Take heed

- over yourselves
- over the flock
- savage wolves are coming
- the flock will not be spared
- from among you, men will rise up and speak perverse things
- disciples will be drawn away to them

Who are among the most vulnerable from within the flock

- the weak
- the sick
- the young

So, what should be done concerning the young in Christ?

- nurture them
- feed them on the milk of word while they are young
- help them to transition the meat of the word
- pray for them
- love them

Hebrews 5:12 – 6:3

- 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

  1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits.

Notice here the things listed as the elementary principles (milk of the word)

- repentance from dead works
- faith toward God
- the doctrine of baptisms
- laying on of hands
- resurrection of the dead
- eternal judgment

How are our young in Christ to get these elementary principles?

- When we assemble, do our Bible studies include these topics?
- Are they involved in individual studies with mature members of the body?
- Are they able to get their specific questions and concerns addressed?
- Are they connected with the body?
- Do they understand why we do the things we do as Christians?

If you are a mature member of the body, are you able to help the young in Christ?

- What if they are “different”?
- What if you are not a leader in the church?
- What if you are not the one who brought them to Christ?

1 Corinthians 3:5 – 9

- [5]Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? [6]I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. [7]So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. [8]Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. [9]For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

Ephesians 4:11 – 16

- [11]And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, [12]for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, [13]till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; [14]that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, [15]but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- [16]from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Don’t be a stumbling block to a new brother or sister

- Don’t be the one about whom they can say regarding some bad behavior, “Well, … does that.”

Don’t become discouraged if someone falls away. Matthew 13:18 – 23

- The path – this person did not believe and the evil one snatched away what was sown in his heart.
- The rocky soil – received the word at once. But trouble or persecution came because of the word and this person fell away
- The soil with thorns – hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it.

Don’t become discouraged if someone falls away. Matthew 13:18 – 23

- The good soil – hears the word and understands it. Produces a crop yielding a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown.
- Only one out of the four types of soil produced good results.
- We often don’t know the hearts of people and cannot predict the end result
- Keep sowing the seed and keep watering.

So, what can I do to help the young in Christ?

- Teach
- Encourage
- Pray
- Be a good example
- Love
- Be vigilant

1 Peter 5:8

- [8]Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.