



Passing the Baton (without dropping it)







In August of 2024, the USA men's 4x100 relay team lost the chance to medal when they passed the baton outside of the designated zone



“Every missionary is an interim missionary”



1. You do not own your church,  
and you did not choose to be a  
leader in it.

Acts 20:28





**A. The Church Is Not Yours, But God's**

**B. Your Position (As Elder) Is Not Your Choice, but the Holy Spirit's**

2. You must watch out for  
spiritual predators and warn  
against them.

Acts 20:29-31



A male  
zebra will  
stand guard  
over his  
dazzle



**A. Shepherding Demands Vigilance**

**B. Shepherding Requires Verbal Warnings**



## Paul's verbal ministry at Ephesus

- He proclaimed (v. 20, 27).
- He taught (v. 20).
- He testified (v. 21).
- He preached (v. 25).
- He warned night and day (v. 31).

**3. Shepherding will cost you much, but it is more blessed to give than to receive.**

Acts 20:33-35





**A. Shepherding demands giving**

**B. Giving brings its own reward**

- He served the Lord with humility, trials, and tears (v. 19).
- He taught in public (v. 20).
- He taught from house to house, probably in the house churches in which they gathered (v. 20).
- He forced himself to not shrink back from what he ought to say to them (vv. 20, 27).
- His shepherding involved a lot of verbal activity.
- He was busy night and day (v. 31).
- He worked with his own hands to meet his necessities and the needs of those who ministered with him (v. 34).
- He helped (financially) those who were weak (v. 35).

## Matthew Henry

“It is more blessed to give our pains  
than to receive pay for it.”

4. You will find God and His  
Word to be more than enough.

Acts 20:32



**A. Entrusted to God**

**B. Entrusted to God's grace-giving Word**

John Newton's wife, Mary, suffered terribly at the end of her life with cancer. Newton testified, however, that "the good Word of God was her medicine and her food." He comments that "almost every principal text" in her Bible, "from beginning to the end of the book, is marked in the margin with a pencil, by her own dear hand."

“The night I sailed for China, March 3, 1893, my life, on the human side, was broken, and it never was mended again. But He has been enough.”

