



CtK exists to connect all people to the life-giving message of Jesus, as we experience God, find freedom, discover purpose, and make a difference in our world.

*CtK in Worship—Empowerment to Grow—Relationships Bring Life—Honor in Service
In His Presence—Sharing Jesus in Love—CtK in Mission*

Day 21—Saturday, September 1st

CtK in Mission

Prayer Focus—Local & International Mission Trips

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)

In Acts 19 & 20, Paul leaves the city of Ephesus where he devoted three years of his life to the believers. But with his life in danger, and with unfinished business still before him, it was time to move on.

Paul leaving Ephesus could easily have been a point of discouragement. He invested so much time in the Ephesus church, to leave it now, when there was still so much to be done, could have been a natural place to think about the 'would haves' or 'should haves', but Paul isn't at all concerned. There's no need to be concerned when we're about God's kingdom work. Instead, Paul devises a plan. He heads to the seaside town of Miletus, and organizes a meeting. His actions saying, "If I can't go to them, I will invite them to me." Nothing can stop Paul from the ministry. No setback will keep him from pressing towards the goal of his calling. From here, we find Paul's final instructions to the Church leaders.

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock—we need to pay careful attention to our lives being in spiritual order to be effective at reaching the lost and broken world for Jesus. We cannot be complicit in the brokenness. We are called to a higher standard that values each human being, cares for, has compassion on, protects and defends all of God's people. Nor can we hide from community—this is against the very heart of God who draws us all into a living relationship with him and with his creation.

Of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers—we are ALL leaders in some capacity—whether we think we are or want to be. But the good news is the Holy Spirit equips us and gives us the authority to lead from wherever we are—in the home or in the boardroom. The level of our authority is proportional to the level with which we remain under God's authority and abide in His Word. God loves to expand abundantly the territory of the faithful servant. We can lead with excellence by following Jesus's example.

To care for the church of God—we are to be shepherds of God's people; caring for and valuing the lives of all God's people, and believing with all our hearts that every human being is created in the image of God. There is a seat for everyone at God's table. There is no greater privilege than to care for God's people and share his love, truth, mercy, and grace.

Which he obtained with His own blood—we have been purchased with a price. Our sin separated us from God, and Jesus restored our relationship with God through his death on the cross. When we believe the final words and vision of Jesus, to love as he has loved us (John 13:34) and to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19), we see the vision and begin to understand our purpose within the body. Like Paul, we can be bold and determined—nothing can stand in our way. With the power of the Holy Spirit, we can do all things, reach all people, change lives, and bring others to freedom in Jesus, through Christ who gives us strength.

God, thank you for thinking us so valuable you would die on a cross for us. Thank you for the great privilege to know you, to know your heart for us, and to share your heart with all of your people, as we live together on mission here in our homes, our communities and our world.

Jessica Hing

