

God's Charge to the Serving Board – a series of three devotions given by Robert Ching at the Serving Board Meetings on Sep. 2, 2017, Oct. 21, 2017, and Dec. 2, 2017

Hebrews 13:¹⁷ "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account."

- First notice the word "leaders" is in plural. There is strong biblical argument for plurality in leadership in the N.T. church. The term "leaders" will apply to the serving board which is the governing body of Gilead Bible Church.
- The congregation is asked to obey and submit to us. Therefore, we must make sure our actions are biblically sound, and after much prayers. We must lead by examples, and must be on the front line. War is not won by leaders telling their people to charge, but by asking them to follow.
- Then we have the heavy responsibility to watch over their souls. One translation says "sleeplessly watch over". The soul is the most valuable of our people. Mark 8:36 says "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"
- What is "To watch over their souls"? It is to ensure the people enter into a growing relationship with Christ.
- How? By evangelism to draw them to the Lord, with pastoral care over their entire beings, and as teacher feeding them the Word of God. (Eph 4:11)
- We must do this with great devotion and diligence because "church leaders will give an account before the Lord someday as to how those in their flock have fared."

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

- On Oct 31, the Protestant world will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation when Martin Luther nailed his 95 thesis at the castle church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Dr. R.C. Sproul rightly said few Protestants today understand what we protest against.
- One tenet of the Reformation is sola scripture, or scripture alone, which returns the Bible as the sole authority of God. But "scripture alone" as a slogan is not enough. All reformers were serious students of the Bible. They studied hard to present the doctrinal truth of the scripture.
- 2 Timothy 2:15 says a workman of God must be diligent in the word of God, so he can rightly handle and explain the Word of God. "Dividing the word of truth" is a picture of dissecting the human body. You must be thorough & careful to study the internals before applying the cutting knife. A wrong cut is irreversible and the result can be disastrous.
- The serving board as workers of God must also be serious students of the Word of God so we can rightly teach and apply the word of truth. James 3:1 reminds us that we will receive greater judgment.

Acts 20:²⁹ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

- My neighbor raises chicken for organic eggs. This summer, a hawk came down to scoop up the chickens. Foxes are lurking around our areas because they smell chicken. The chickens can't be free-ranged any more. They built fences around the chicken house, and even cover the top of the fenced areas.
- Paul warns night and day with tears that the church will face savage wolves from outside and false teachers from inside. They distort the truth and draw disciples after themselves and not Christ. The serving board is charged to be constantly on guard against attacks from outside and within.
- First, we must be biblically grounded in order to discern against false teachings.
- Next we must be watchful, constantly look out against developments coming from outside and from inside that will draw people away from Christ to themselves.
- We must prepare to act in one accord after much prayers and seeking guidance from mature workers of God.