

Daily Devotional, February 18, 2021

'Black Ice', (Acts 20:28-31, NKJV)

“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. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.” (Acts 20:28-31)

“Watch out for black ice.” We hear it often in New England in the winter time. We must be careful where we walk, and watch our speed and the road in front of us when we are driving. Black ice is difficult to spot, and we don't want to slip on it if we can avoid it. False teaching masquerading as Christian teaching is just like that. We know that we have the perfect truth of God in the pages of the Bible. But we also know that we need to learn how to understand it within its proper context and theological framework in order to gain the greatest benefit from our reading and study of Scripture. And we must get both parts right if we are going to be strong and mature Christians.

Certain folks that Paul and Silas encountered in their ministry didn't just take anyone's word for anything relating to Bible truth. They went back to their Bible and verified everything. Good for them. *“Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so”* (Acts 17:10-11). These folks were going back to the Book. They were going to proceed carefully, and they were not going to be slipping on any doctrinal “black ice” if they could help it. There are very good reasons why texts like the one we have today are found throughout the Word of God. Lots of folks twist the Scriptures to their own liking and towards their own ends. Maybe they are greedy for money, maybe they are deceived by some cult system they are in, or maybe they want to justify their own sin and disobedience to what God has clearly said. Heed the warnings. And when you're out there in the world today, even in your daily reading and Bible study time, watch out for black ice.