A stone church building with a bell tower, set against a backdrop of mountains and a cloudy sky. The church is constructed from rough-hewn stones and features a prominent arched doorway and a small bell tower on the left side. The background shows a range of mountains under a sky with scattered clouds. In the foreground, there are some tall, golden-brown grasses and a paved road curving to the right.

“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)



A photograph of a rustic stone church building with a bell tower, set against a backdrop of mountains and a cloudy sky. The church is constructed from rough-hewn stones and features a prominent arched doorway and a small bell tower on the left side. The scene is captured from a low angle, emphasizing the height of the building. In the foreground, there are some tall, golden-brown grasses and a paved road curving to the right. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, suggesting a bright but slightly overcast day.

# Four Characteristics of Early Church Leadership

- Simplicity
- Plurality
- Watchfulness
- Sacrifice

# Simplicity

...in structure:

“elders” (v. 17) = “overseers” (v. 28)  
= “to shepherd (*pastor*)” (v. 28)

(See also 1 Peter 5:1-4)





# Simplicity

...in function:

- “declaring... teaching... testifying” (v. 21)
- “proclaiming the kingdom” (v. 25)
- “declaring the whole counsel of God (v. 27)





## Plurality

"...he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him." (20:17)

"And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed." (Acts 14:23)



## Plurality

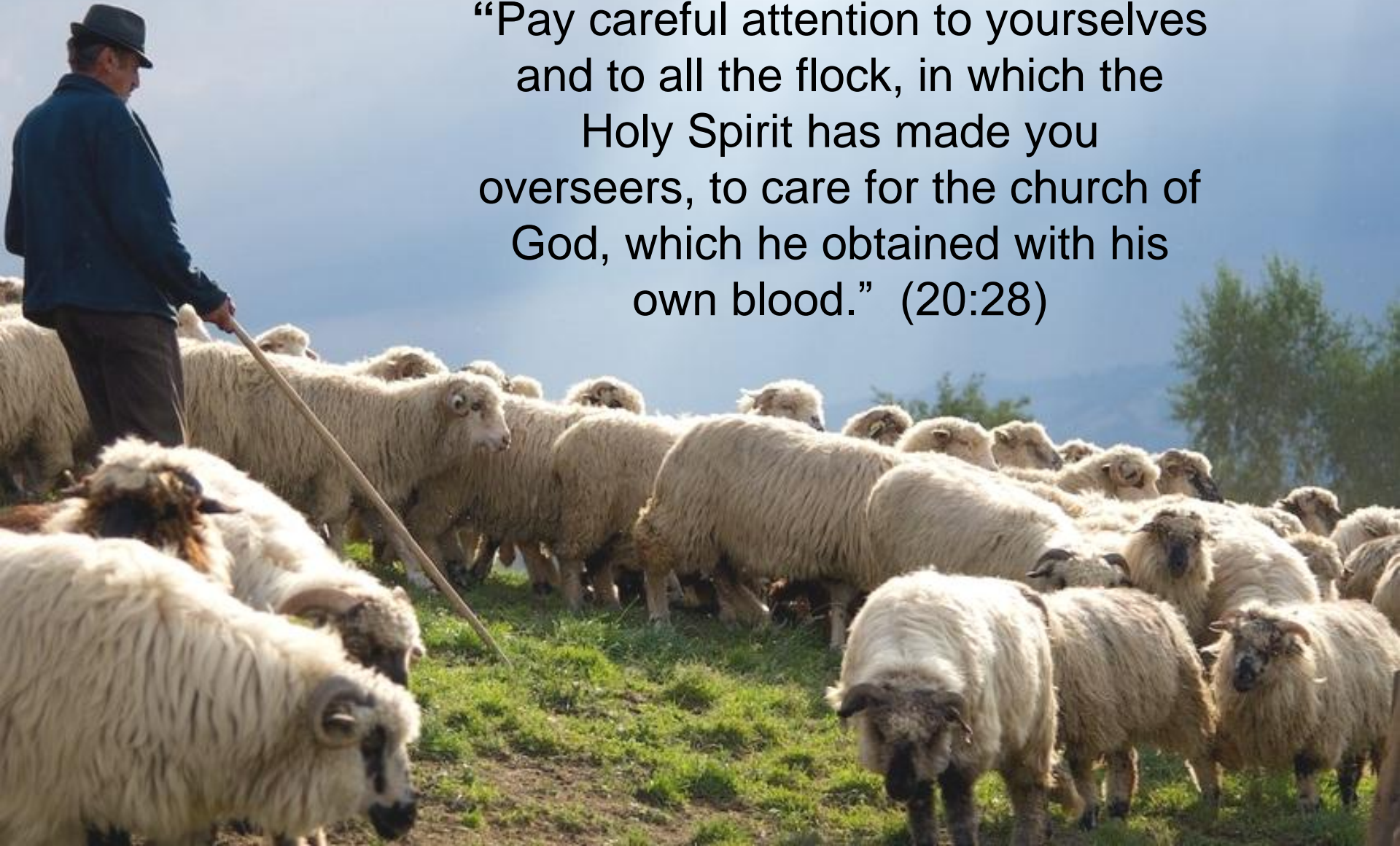
“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow.” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10a)

“I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority.” (3 John 9)



# Watchfulness

“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.” (20:28)



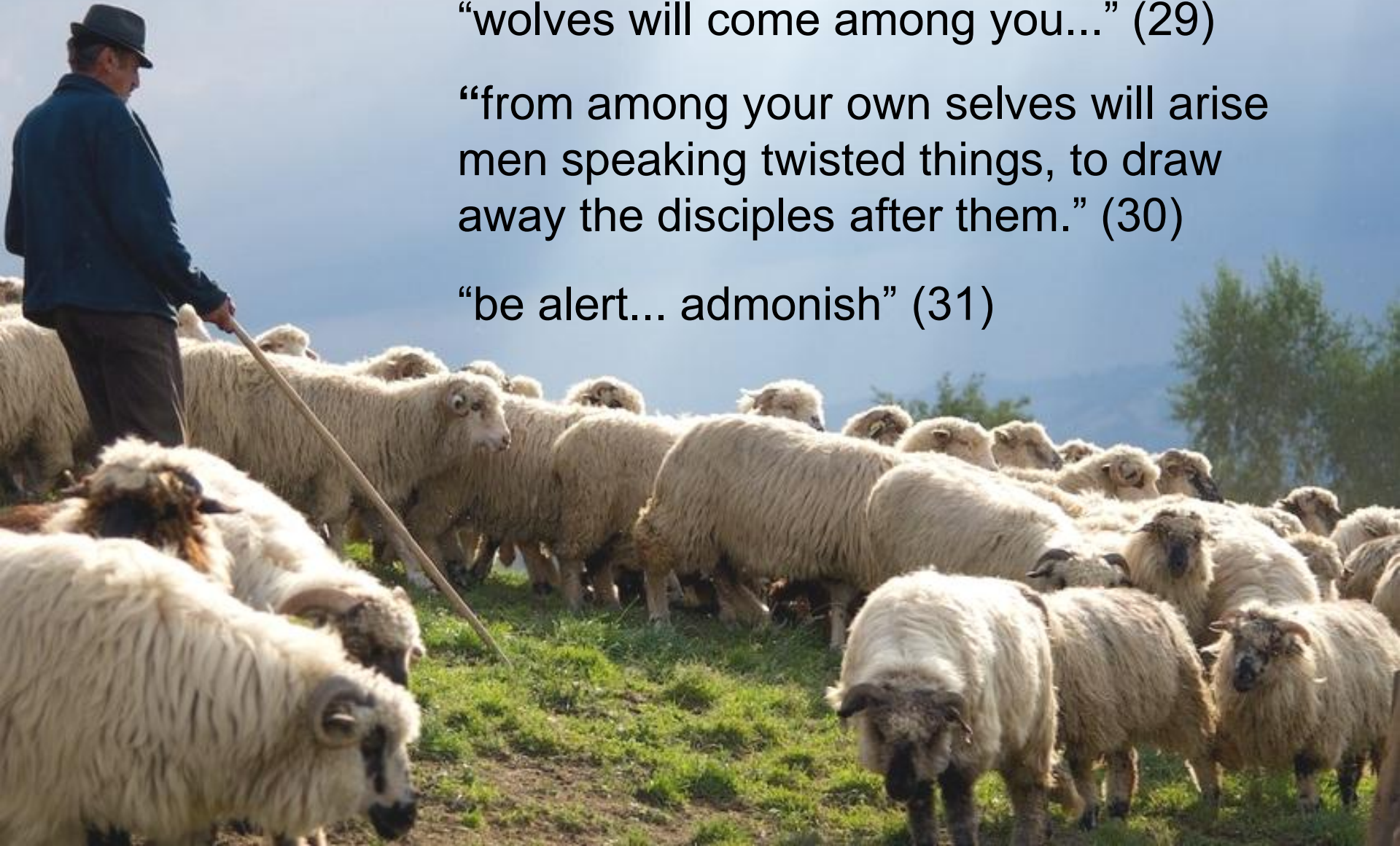


# Watchfulness

“wolves will come among you...” (29)

“from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.” (30)

“be alert... admonish” (31)



# Watchfulness

“...in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers...”

→ *So how does BCF choose elders??*





# Sacrifice

“But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.” (20:24)





# Sacrifice

“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (20:35)





