PCC

Dr. Mark Ambrose
September 20, 2026

Series: Unstoppable
Text: Acts 20:31-36

It's Time!

"How to Work Together Through Pastoral Succession"

1. Remember We Are God's Beautiful Story (vv. 31-32)

2. Don't Participate in Rumor Mills (vv. 33-35)

3. Pray, Pray, Pray (v. 36)

Grow Group Discussion Questions

A grow group is 8-16 people who get together weekly to study God's word and the previous Sunday's message. There is a time of discussion, support, encouragement, and learning how the message applies to daily life. ***PCC uses the ESV (English Standard Version).***

HOW DO I JOIN A GROUP?
To learn more or join a group, visit **pacificcoastchurch.org/gg/** or sign up at the patio Info Kiosk.

Point #1
a) Read Acts 20:31-32. Who did Paul commit the Elders to? Why is this important in terms of leadership?
b) In what way does this make PCC part of God's beautiful story? How does this build excitement for PCC's future?

Point #2
a) Read Acts 20:33-35. Why was Paul defending himself when it came to money? (i.e. the rumors)
b) Why was this important before he left? What does this highlight about rumors during a pastoral succession?

Point #3
a) Read Acts 20:36. What was Paul's final action with the Elders? Why was this the most important step? Be specific.
b) How will you commit to praying for PCC and pastor Mark during this season of transition and succession?

Daily Devotions

These are provided for mid-week personal spiritual growth. Prayerfully writing out your answers will help you experience real life transformation as you dig deeper into the spiritual truths of God's word and today's message. A downloadable PDF of this document is also available each week at **pacificcoastchurch.org/sermons**.

MONDAY // Read Acts 18:18-21, 19:1-41, 20:31
- As you read about Paul's ministry experience in Ephesus, how would you describe it? (i.e. easy, hard, etc.)
- What does this reveal about the requirements for being an effective pastor? What is at risk if this isn't understood?
- In what way does this adjust the way you've viewed pastoral leadership? Be specific.

TUESDAY // Read Acts 20:32, Matthew 16:18, 1 Peter 5:1-4
- Who did Paul commend the Elders to when saying goodbye? How was this an important reminder?
- In what way is the church part of God's beautiful story going back to Jesus? How should this adjust every Pastor?
- How is PCC part of God's beautiful story? How should this help build excitement and confidence for PCC's future?

WEDNESDAY // Read Acts 20:32, Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:19-22, 5:25-29, John 21:15-17
- Explain the four different ways the New Testament describes the church? How is Jesus related to each one?
- What does this highlight about church leadership's role toward Jesus? How can this be misunderstood?
- As you consider Pastor Mark's succession at PCC, how can this truth help your perspective looking ahead?

THURSDAY // Read Acts 20:33-35, 1 Corinthians 9:3-8, 7:2, 12:14-18, 1 Thessalonians 2:9
- Why was Paul correcting a misunderstanding with the Ephesian Elders when it came to money? (i.e. rumors)
- How did this also happen in other churches? What does this highlight about rumors and gossip in the church?
- Why is this important to remember during times of pastoral succession? How does this challenge you?

FRIDAY // Read Acts 20:33-35, Proverbs 16:28, 26:20, Romans 1:29-30, Ephesians 4:3
- Why will rumor mills and gossip always cause division in a church? How is this to be treated like fire?
- In what way are Christians to work at unity instead? Why will it be a challenge in today's world of social media?
- How can you be tempted into speculation and rumor mills? How can you make a concentrated effort to change?

SATURDAY // Read Acts 20:36-38, Ephesians 3:20-21
- What was Paul's final action when retiring from ministry in Ephesus? Why was this the most important step?
- Knowing that God's in charge of His church, why will prayer be critical to a successful pastoral succession?
- How will you commit to praying for PCC and pastor Mark during this season of transition and succession?

MEDITATION VERSE: *20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.* ***Ephesians 3:20-21***