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Eternal issues are riding on the manner in which a minister discharges these responsibilities---his own soul's salvation as well as the salvation of those whom he ministers. Paul therefore admonishes: **Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee** (16). For a minister of the gospel this is one of the most sobering verses in the New Testament. It is possible that a man may become inordinately concerned about his own success in the ministry. If he uses as his measuring stick the degree of preferment (advancement or promotion) he enjoys, or his promotion to ever increasing responsibility with it's enlarged emolument (gain or advantage), he may fail in the end to save himself. Paul confesses

this fear in his own heart when he says, “I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway” (I Cor. 9:27). Let us not forget that, in our efforts to carry forward the work of Christ’s Church, our own soul’s salvation is hanging in the balance, and that we must take heed to ourselves as well as to our teaching and ministry.