

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

46 A

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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ELDERS – LESSON 5

- The Work Of Elders** Paul told Timothy to (2 Tim 4:5) “ _____ thou in _____ things, _____ afflictions, do the _____ of an evangelist, _____ full _____ of thy ministry.” (a) Elders must “do the work” of shepherding and overseeing. (b) They (Heb 13:17) “do it with _____.” Why? Because “they _____ for your _____” and understand their efforts are _____ for God’s heritage. (c) They (Acts 20:28) “ _____ the _____ of God.”
- The Responsibility** They (Heb 13:17) “must give _____” to God for the manner in which they discharge their duties. Shepherding the church is a formidable responsibility. Only men of deep commitment and faith can do the job in a worthy manner. That’s why they must accept the responsibility (1 Pet 5:2) “not by constraint, but _____; not for _____, but of a _____ mind.” What is meant by a ready mind? _____
- Their Relationship To The Local Members** (a) They are brethren (2 Pet 1:1) of “like precious _____ ----- through the _____ of God.” (b) They are to be “looked up to” for two obvious reasons: They are of the older generation and they perform (1 Tim 3:1) “a _____” needed by the local members. (c) Since they are to be _____ (Heb 13:7), this means they occupy a position of authority that the other members do not possess. (d) Members must “submit” to elders, but the elders are never to act as (1 Pet 5:3) “ _____ over God’s heritage.”
- Their Relationship With The Deacons** Interestingly, deacons are to (1 Tim 3:13) use their _____ well. Just as the elders occupy an office (ie: a work), so do the deacons. (a) Deacons are sometimes said to be “in training to become elders.” Whether or not this happens, it is quite a reasonable description. (b) In this vein, elders are (1 Pet 5:3) “ _____” to the deacons, as well as to the entire flock. (c) They oversee the work of the deacons who, by definition of the term, are *waiters, attendants* and *servants* of the church. (d) Elders should regularly meet and work with the deacons. Read (Acts 6:1-6) and note the apostle/servant relationship in the infancy of the early church and compare to later elder/deacon relationships.
- The Elder/Preacher Relationship** (a) Our modern concept and practice of fully-salaried local preachers who may, more often than not, spend more time attending church matters than the elders, is not a duplication of the NT pattern. (b) Located preacher positions may be scripturally defended using periods of the Apostle Paul’s ministry as a noteworthy example. (c) The Apostle Peter, a mighty preacher, was an elder. Proof Text? _____ (d) Elders were installed in the early church (Eph 4:11) to assume permanent overseer-ship after the Apostles died. (e) Church organization was different in the miraculous age of the Apostles than it is today. (f) We would be closer to the NT pattern if elders did most of the work that today’s local preachers do. (g) Elders must “oversee” today’s located preacher as they do every member. (h) This working relationship should be close, especially so if he is entrusted with much of what they probably should be doing themselves.

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