

When the Bible Talks About Elders... (1)

- A. *Philippians 1:1* provides a snapshot of a fully organized local church.
 - 1. An unmistakable part of Paul's work was appointing elders in every church (*Acts 14:23*).
 - 2. Without "overseers," significant work is "unfinished" (NIV), full potential is "lacking" (NKJV, *Tit 1:5*).
- B. When the Bible talks about elders, what can we learn?

I. Leadership the Lord's Way

- A. "Whoever would be great among you must be your _____" (*Matt 20:25-28*).
- B. "I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you" (*John 13:12-17*).

II. Learning from the Labels

- A. _____: someone who has lived long enough and studied diligently to accrue some wisdom.
 - 1. *Acts 15:2* – "...to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and **elders** about this question."
 - 2. *Acts 20:17* – "He sent to Ephesus and called the **elders** of the church to come to him."
 - 3. *1 Pet 5:1* – "So I exhort the **elders** among you, as a fellow **elder**..."
 - 4. *1 Tim 5:17* – "Let the **elders** who rule well be considered worthy of double honor..."
- B. _____: someone who is responsible to see that things are done properly.
 - 1. *Acts 20:28* – "...the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**..."
 - 2. *1 Tim 3:1* – "If anyone aspires to the office of **overseer**, he desires a noble task."
- C. _____: someone who faithfully watches over the affairs of a master.
 - 1. *Tit 1:7* – "For an overseer, as God's **steward**, must be above reproach."
 - 2. *1 Cor 4:2* – "It is required of **stewards** that they be found faithful."
- D. _____: someone who provides guidance, protection, and sustenance to a flock.
 - 1. *Eph 4:11* – "He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the **shepherds**..."
 - 2. *Heb 13:17* – "...for they are **keeping watch over** your souls..."
 - 3. *1 Pet 5:1-5* – "...**shepherd** the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight..."
 - 4. *John 10:1-18* – "The good **shepherd** lays down his life for the sheep."