

Midweek Study

Notes

GOD'S
Dream Church

Through 1 Timothy

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

The Calling of a Pastor

1 Timothy 3:1

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**Qualifications of a pastor: He must have the mind of a scholar,
the heart of a child, and the hide of a rhinoceros.**

The bishops were apparently the same as the elders or ministers of a church. The two words are used interchangeably to refer to the same men. The bishop was the person whom we call the minister or pastor of the church.

The bishops were in charge of overseeing the spiritual needs of the church. They were to watch over, nourish, and protect the church through teaching and preaching. How are the duties of bishops (also called overseers) described in Acts 20:28?

Acts 20:28-29 (NKJV) - Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to **shepherd** the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

Philippians 1:1 (NKJV) – TWO OFFICES – BISHOP AND DEACON

1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

1 Peter 5:1-4 (NKJV)

1 The **elders** who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow **elder** and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

2 **Shepherd** the flock of God which is among you, serving as **overseers**, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

1 Timothy 3:1, “This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.”

The first “desires” (better “aspires”) means reaches for; this is an outward aspiration for a “good work,” not the ambitious pursuit of a prestigious office. The word translated “aspires” is ὀρέγομαι (oregomai), a word that means “to stretch oneself out in order to touch or to grasp something, to reach after or desire something.” **It pictures a runner lunging for the finish line.**

The second “desires” means a passionate, consuming want: again its object is the “good work.”

1. The Pastor **FEEDS** (Poimen) Shepherd / Pastor

Gk. Poimen – Feeder; Hebrew for shepherd or pastor is “feeder”

John 21:15, Jesus says “Peter feed my sheep” – that’s the word “Pastor”

1 Peter 5:2 says “feed the flock” which is the verb form of the Greek word “Pastor”.

2. The Pastor **LEADS** (Presbeturos) Overseer

Bishop comes from the Gk. word episkopos and means “overseer.” The Episcopal church gets its name from this word. The local pastor, then, was an elder in terms of spiritual maturity, and an overseer in terms of ministry. To take the oversight. To watch around.

Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV) - 17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

3. The Pastor **EXCEEDS** (Episcopos) Elder

Elder is a translation of the Gk. word presbuteros (translated “presbytery” in 4:14). The word simply means an older, mature person. The Jewish elders (Luke 22:66) were the leading adult men, recognized for their maturity. In the early church, pastors were chosen from the mature men of the fellowship.

Mature, seasoned believer the people respect and listen to. They serve as an example of the flock. He practices what he preaches.

1 Peter 5:1 - The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder

How to Know You’re CALLED into the Ministry¹:

C – onfirmation by God and others

A – bilities to do God’s work

L – onging to do God’s work

L – ifestyle of Spiritual Growth

1 Corinthians 9:16 (NKJV) - 16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!

A. Confirmation by Others

Acts 16:1-3 (NKJV) - 1 Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. 2 He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted to have him go on with him.

1 Timothy 4:14 (NKJV)

14 Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

A good definition of ordination is the public confirmation of an inner qualification and giftedness.

B. Confirmation from God

The providence of God - “a correspondent opening in providence, by a gradual train of circumstances pointing out the means, the time, the place, of actually entering upon the work.”

1 Corinthians 16:8-9 (NKJV) 8 But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost.

9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

¹ CALL acronym from John MacArthur, Rediscovering Pastoral Ministry