

Duties of Elders

Introduction:

- A. Leaders are remembered as great because in times of trial they rose to the occasion. - e.g., Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt
- B. In a time of sweeping apostasy, the church sorely needs such leaders. - Acts 20:28-31
- C. The success or failure of elders in the discharge of their duties will determine the eternal destiny of both the shepherds and the flock. - Titus 1:7; Hebrews 13:17
- D. What are the duties of elders?
 - I. "Take heed to yourselves" - Acts 20:28; cf. Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:3; 1 Timothy 3:7
 - II. "Take heed ... to all the flock." - Acts 20:28
 - A. oversee - Acts 20:28; 1 Thessalonians 5:12
 - B. shepherd (feed) - Acts 20:28
 - 1. feed - Psalm 23:2
 - a. teach personally - 1 Timothy 3:2; Ephesians 4:11; Titus 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; Hebrews 13:17
 - b. select competent, faithful teachers and evangelists - 1 Timothy 4:14; Acts 20:17; 1 Timothy 1:3
 - 2. guide - John 10:3-5; 1 Peter 5:3; Hebrews 13:7
 - 3. watch - Hebrews 13:17
 - a. care for the lambs - Romans 15:1; James 5:14-16
 - b. prevent the sheep from straying - Ezekiel 3:16-21
 - c. recover the lost - Luke 15:3-7
 - d. guard against predators - John 10:11-13; Acts 20:29-31; Titus 1:9-11

Conclusion:

- A. It is difficult to overestimate the importance of good elders to the local church. - 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
- B. Elders, perform your duties with zeal and care. - 1 Peter 5:2