

THE DUTIES OF ELDERS

Terry Joe Kee

There is a great responsibility attached to the eldership. This is a WORK not a position. There is no such thing as a nominal Christian, and neither is there a nominal elder. One should not desire the eldership for earthly honor, but for sincere service to God. It must be emphasized that the eldership is a WORK and not merely an official position. This WORK carries with it God-given authority (cf. Rom. 12:4,5; I Tim. 3:1).

The duty of an elder, shepherd, and overseer is first, **self-discipline** (Acts 20:28). Every Christian has a responsibility to examine himself (2 Cor. 13:5). Elders who do not watch their own lives are in no position to fulfill the requirement to keep the church pure and free from false doctrine.

Shepherds are responsible for the **watch-care** of the congregation (Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2,3). Compare church shepherds to the ancient shepherds. Take a moment and read (John 10:1-14). Notice the shepherd described is to lead the sheep, know the sheep by name, and protect the sheep from wolves. His work was feeding, but also guidance and protection. The work of elders is analogous to literal shepherds (Read Acts 20:28-31). Notice that verses 29-31 give the principal meaning of verse 28. Elders must protect the church against those from without. They must guard against the influence of schismatics within the congregation. They must be ready and willing to act upon the first appearance of danger. Some indicate by their interest that they are only "hirelings" (John 10:12). Shepherds need to know everything they can about the flock.

Elders will **give account** for the souls under their care (Heb. 13:7,17). Take a moment and read the Lord's parable in Luke 15:3-7. They must have concern for those who wander. They may enlist the aid of others to help bring back the wanderer. But the lost must be identified and sought out with every effort being given to see them restored.

The idea of being a shepherd comes from the Greek word POIMAINO. This carries the idea of **tending** as a shepherd (Young's Analytical); or to tend a flock, keep sheep (Thayer). Mr. Thayer further comments by saying this word means "to rule or govern" (commenting on Acts 20:29; I Peter 5:2). Take note of the fact that one of the qualifications for a shepherd is vigilance. To be slack in this is what allows apostasy (2 Pet. 1:5-11; I Peter 5:8,9).

Shepherds and pastors must also be **teachers** of the Word of God. This is implied in the qualification "apt to teach" (I Tim. 3:2). Not all teaching must be done by elders. Sometimes teachers are distinguished from pastors (Eph.4:11) and surely others were teachers (Heb. 5:12-14). To be a teacher demands as a prerequisite the possession of knowledge (2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Peter 3:18). Men who cannot or will not teach fail to meet this important qualification (cf. Acts 20:28-31; Titus 1:9). As teachers, our shepherds must be able to exhort and convince the gainsayers (Titus 1:9). The ability to teach is here implied at the least. Gainsayers are objectors, those who speak against, contradict, and tear down rather than build up. Shepherds must be able to stop these from gaining access to the flock of God.

Bishops must be willing to **take the oversight** of the church (I Peter 5:2). The word PROISTEEMI means to rule over the congregation (I Tim. 5:17). This is "not of constraint but willing," that is willing to accept this fearful responsibility. There is not any passage that indicates that elders are to be arbitrary rulers. For one to rule properly, he must see to it that the laws of the New Testament are carried out. Take note of I Peter 5:2 -- "According to the will of God" (ASV).

This also requires that shepherds **watch** for grievous wolves (Acts 20:29-31). This requires vigilance. The wolves are false teachers (Matt. 7:15). So, who is a false teacher (2 John 9; 2 Pet. 2:1,2; Gal. 1:6-12)? Elders must beware of their leaven (Matt. 16:6,12). This is required if we keep the church (Eph. 5:27). Elders must be able to recognize false doctrine.

(continued next week)

REVELATION 14:5-12

S E W A N D N T Q D P K S J Z D T E T C H Q F T D E Q
V E C B B I W N S R W H Y L E N J J S F J C B A F B C
S N M I G O I F E K T R M T E L V A A O A A A O I N W
D O B H O B N S Z R W J N M H G L A E U Z I U E M T T
X R T D A V E J A I P E G H Q C N M B N O N T U R E H
C H W B Q N D E O V M D B E Y L L A O T D T Z L J P E
K T P Q C L U U K R U X D A O G J J X A J Q B D U F M
B I K E V Z W C O J Z K A V W O R S H I P U K I C A W
R H N R A E F T Q L H Z Y E C O M M A N D M E N T S F
I Z Y D A G P E L I U G R N T L A J D S E Q K V Q Y N
M L D L R C R H Y F B H U R O Z U P J G M P U G T F O
E T O R M E N T P A O X O T N Z W N A T I O N I B U I
S Y L O H Y D E D V B R H J G D S M R A Z R C S J R T
T U K E N W O B J D E N E X U Y I E E R U T X I M L A
O E G U A P U W O V R C O H E J Q S A R A B A A F O N
N C I T L I R G E F Z E N L E N T C A E X G O I E N G
E I E E Y A Z R D T M Q S E Y A D F R Z W Z Q N G G I
P R C F T E L F F W O L M T I B D G N D T I J U G S D
S U Q H L A K X U B U L A M M T A U E W R M A R K P N
W Q C L S Y M I G M T E U H B M A B L O C I U I O E I
W N A T I O N S I A H W S Q A H I P L L J N N U H N K
C H I O T Y S T Y L V D L E G N A K A R G N R K E L B
A N G E L H I N S R E V E O S O H W F I R E D X A B E
G V J R C A V I Y N O I T A C I N R O F D U N H L K X
I J J S W N B A J P C L E V Q G Z T H C L E P S O G Y
R F F X T D Q S P G C D G H T E D N E C S A A M V R K
F B W M F O R E V E R A N D E V E R C D O D S K L N P

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|------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| angel | angels | ascendeth | Babylon | beast |
| brimstone | commandments | cup | day | drink |
| dwelt | earth | everlasting | faith | fallen |
| fault | fear | fire | fly | forehead |
| forever and ever | fornication | found | fountains | furlongs |
| glory | God | gospel | great city | guile |
| hand | heaven | holy | hour | image |
| indignation | judgment | kindred | Lamb | loud voice |
| mark | mixture | mouth | nation | nations |
| night | patience | people | poured | preach |
| presence | rest | saints | sea | smoke |
| throne | tongue | torment | tormented | waters |
| whosoever | wine | worship | wrath | |

(What word or words is found more than once in the puzzle? What word is not found in the puzzle?)

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

Reports from the Philippines Mission Work and the Thailand Mission Work are on the Mission Table in the foyer for you to pick up and read.

New Family Bible Study Questions are on the **Missions Table** in the foyer.

Upcoming Events:

Ladies Night Out August 13th at 6:30 p.m. in the basement. Bring finger foods. We intend to become better acquainted with our mission works.

Hands & Hearts August 15th at 9:30a.m. in the card room. All ladies are invited to come send cards, pray and eat lunch out together.

Upcoming Fall Gospel Meeting

(Please mark your calendars and do not be away during these weeks.)

Gospel Meeting 2024, September 8th – 11th with Gilbert Gough, Savannah, Tennessee. Theme: “**There Is A God In Heaven**”

Gospel Meeting 2025, April 27th – 30th with Lee Moses, Union City, Tennessee.

VBS 2025 June 8th – 11th.

Gospel Meeting 2025 September 14th -17th with Dan Sikes, Benton, Kentucky.

Those Privileged To Serve August 11, 2024

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader Larry Taylor
Opening Prayer Hal Baugh
Closing Prayer Jimmie Powell
Bible Reading David Dye
Preacher Terry Joe Kee

LORD’S TABLE

Presiding: Jason Garland
Robert Stephens Barry Roush
Bobby Kendall Gavon Allen
Donnie Gilliland Hayden Roush

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Felts

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Mark Wooten
Opening Prayer: Larry Taylor
Closing Prayer: Gavon Allen
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

August 14, 2024

Song Leader Randy Oden
Opening Prayer Bobby Kendall
Closing Prayer James Johnson

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

August 14, 2024

J. L. May

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK Week Of August 4, 2024

Sunday Bible Study	67
Sunday AM Worship	96
Sunday PM Worship	77
Wednesday Bible Study	62
Contribution	\$4631

**“Behold, I come as
a thief...”**

Revelation 16:15

Greensboro Road church of Christ



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“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

SHEPHERDS

Scottie Blanchard
Mike Felts
Terry Joe Kee
Dan Nichols
Larry Taylor

DEACONS

Jerry Dodson
Stacy Eddleman
Jason Garland
Scott Pratt
Kevin Roush
Mark Wooten

EVANGELIST

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONS

Samrit Kammanee,
Southeast Asia
Philippines Missions
Warren, Pennsylvania

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear Romans 10:17
Believe John 8:24
Repent Luke 13:3
Confess Rom. 10:9,10
Be Baptized Acts 2:38
Live faithfully Rev. 2:10

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works” (Hebrews 10:24)

**Let Us Do More
In 2024**

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Kee Notes

It seems like everyone has taken the opportunity to get in one last trip before school starts back. Now it is time to get everyone back and ready for the upcoming **Gospel Meeting** with **Gilbert Gough**. The theme for this meeting is **There Is A God In Heaven**. The Bible class will be answering a letter from a skeptic, and then the worship services will all deal with giving us helpful ways to answer unbelievers and to fortify our faith. Be getting excited about our meeting and begin thinking about those we can invite or bring.

We rejoice with the angels of heaven as one of our young people, **Kadie Garland**, came before the church asking for our prayers. Kadie confessed having not always presented a good Christian example before others. We love and rejoice to have such sweet and dedicated young people who are working to be faithful in a sinful world. Keep Kadie in your every prayer.

Last Lord’s Day we welcomed three new shepherds to help us oversee and watch the flock. **Scottie Blanchard**, **Terry Joe Kee**, and **Larry Taylor** were all ordained to this work and dedicated with a prayer led by J. L. May. We welcome these additional overseers to help us continue in the work of the church here at Greensboro Road. Keep these men and all our bishops in your prayers every day.

Wednesday night we had an old fashioned “Prayer Meeting.” Our elders led prayers specifically addressing our sick, shut-in, weak, unfaithful, and lost from among us and in our community. We also prayed specifically for our community to be evangelized and our missionaries to continue to enjoy success. Let us all recognize the importance of prayer and the power we have through our Father.

Do you spend more time in the Good Book or in Facebook?