

SOME PRELIMINARY MATTERS CONCERNING ELDERS

Terry Joe Kee

The church needs to be reminded from time to time about the qualities and qualifications of elders, shepherds, overseers, pastors, presbyters, and bishops in the church. There must be an understanding among us all as to who these men are and what their responsibilities are (Ephesians 5:17). God has given a plan for congregational organization. It is simple – bishops, deacons and saints (Philippians 1:1). There are trends among some to form boards, committees or leaders to oversee, but we are bound by scripture to follow God’s design for church organization (I Peter 4:11). These laws, given by God, are immutable (I Corinthians 4:6; 2 John 9). What God says concerning the organization of the church is binding and non-negotiable.

The teaching on this subject has diminished, perhaps because of fear; however, the qualifications are clearly set forth in the scripture (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9). Men who do not meet these qualifications will bring discord and sometimes division into the church. Paul warned the Ephesian elders of such troubles coming in among them (Acts 20:28-32). Just because the church appoints a man an elder does not make him one any more than calling yourself George Washington will not make you George Washington, nor is a dog a duke just because we name him “duke.” Sometimes men are chosen for the wrong reasons—wealth, influence, age, a good businessman, etc. Elders are not made by men but by the Holy Spirit (cf. Acts 20:28). One must meet these qualifications before he is selected. Men are not appointed and then grow into the eldership. Being a “good man,” a “good businessman,” or a “good family man” is good but does not necessarily mean he is qualified to serve as an elder. Neither does one “grow” into the eldership.

The apostles were not the only elders in the church (cf. Acts 15:2,4,6). The church at Jerusalem had organization (cf. Acts 6:1-6). The first mention of elders at Jerusalem was when the funds gathered by Paul and Barnabas were given to the elders to disperse (Acts 11:30). Titus is commanded by Paul to appoint elders (Titus 1:5) and Paul appointed elders in every city where the church had been established (Acts 14:23). There were elders at Ephesus and Philippi (Acts 20:17,28; Philippians 1:1). These passages indicate that the eldership was a permanent office in the church.

These men are called elders or presbyters, literally meaning older; but not every older man can hold the office of elder. This is one who is old enough to have the ability, development, and knowledge to serve. These men are also referred to as bishops or overseers, and these two words are used interchangeably (cf. Acts 20:17,28; Titus 1:5,7). These terms indicate one who is a guardian or magistrate who superintends the affairs of a conquered province. These same men are also referred to as pastors or shepherds. Pastor is from the Latin “pasco” and shepherd is from the Greek word ‘poimen’ (cf. Ephesians 4:11). These words are used of those who feed (Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2). Another word that is used of these men is teacher, from DIDASKOLOS (cf. I Timothy 3:2; I Timothy 5:17; Tit. 1:9) and indicates the work of elders.

Scriptural elders, presbyters, shepherds, pastors, bishops and overseers are assigned to an important work which has been ordained by God. They should be respected, but they should so live as to be deserving of that respect. Every man in the church should strive to prepare himself to serve in this capacity, even though not all will be able to qualify. But, every man in the church should be striving toward this kind of perfection. This is what is expected and even demanded of elders (cf. Hebrews 5:12-14; 2 Peter 3:18).

REVELATION 13:1-9

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

authority	bear	beast	blaspheme	blasphemies
blasphemy	book of life	deadly	death	dragon
ear	feet	forty	foundation	great
healed	heaven	kindreds	Lamb	leopard
lion	months	mouth	names	nations
power	saints	sand	sea	seat
serpent	seven heads	speaking	stood	tabernacle
ten crowns	ten horns	tongues	two	war
wondered	world	worship	worshipped	wounded
written				

(What word is NOT found in this passage and what words are found more than once?)

NEWS AND NOTES

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

New Reports from the Philippines 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 for you to pick up and read.

Upcoming Events:

Ladies Appreciation Day will be July 27th beginning at . All ladies are encouraged to be present. *Birthday & Anniversary Celebration* August 4th after evening worship. The theme this time will be “*Back To School.*” Bring foods that remind you of your school days. (I hope this idea does not keep some from coming! Ha!)

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

July 21, 2024

SUNDAY MORNING		SUNDAY EVENING	
Song Leader	Scottie Blanchard	Song Leader:	Larry Taylor
Opening Prayer	Jerry Dodson	Opening Prayer:	Jason Garland
Closing Prayer	Reginald Read	Closing Prayer:	Mitch Mosley
Bible Reading	Scott Pratt	Preacher:	Terry Joe Kee
Preacher	Terry Joe Kee	WEDNESDAY NIGHT	
LORD’S TABLE		July 24, 2024	
Presiding:	Mark Wooten	Song Leader	Scottie Blanchard
Jeff Presley	David Dye	Opening Prayer	Greg Smith
Mitch Mosley	Kevin Roush	Closing Prayer	Bobby Kendall
Jimmie Powell	Robert Stephens	DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER	
ANNOUNCEMENTS		July 24, 2024	
Dan Nichols		Jason Garland	

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

Week Of

July 14, 2024

Sunday Bible Study	102
Sunday AM Worship	123
Sunday PM Worship	94
Wednesday Bible Study	89
Contribution	\$5333

“...that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”

Revelation 14:13

Greensboro Road church of Christ



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Kee Notes

Our summer attendance is on a roller coaster. We have everyone back one week and attendance is back up like this last week and then another week where everyone is gone out of town, vacationing, visiting, etc. and our numbers are down. We certainly miss you when you are away and rejoice when you return. I pray you are having good vacations and visits, but I also want you to know how much we miss you when you are gone.

You have all helped to make a milestone anniversary truly memorable. So many of you came and were with us and made our day special. We did not get a total count, but the “preacher’s count” had us having over 1000 present. I know there were those who could not be with us and that some had other commitments, obligations or plans, but from the bottom of our hearts Martha and I thank you for coming. A special thanks also goes out to our girls who planned, decorated, and made this day special. And yes, Martha deserves much more for having put up with me for fifty years. So again, thanks to everyone who made this time special. Martha and I were blessed to have parents who were Christians and great examples of what a marriage should be. My parents were married for 67 years, and Martha’s parents were married for 60 years. Having good examples is very helpful.

“The man who says his wife can't take a joke, forgets that she took him.” — Oscar Wilde, Irish poet.

“In every good marriage, it pays sometimes to be a little deaf.” — Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

One addition that should be made to the marriage vows: “And do you solemnly swear to protect her from spiders as long as we both shall live?”

SHEPHERDS

Mike Felts

Dan Nichols

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard

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 the Word of God

Romans 10:17

Believe the Word of God

John 8:24

Repent of your sins

Luke 13:3

Confess your faith in Jesus

as the Son of God

Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for the

remission of your sins

Acts 2:38

Live faithfully

Revelation 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