

Lesson 2 – Nature of the Elder's Work

An elder's work is best understood by looking at the terms which describe their office.

- **Elder**
- **Pastor**
- **Bishop**

Passages to read, study and compare.

- **Acts 20:17-38**
- **1 Peter 5:1-4**
- **1 Tim. 3:1-7**
- **Titus 1:5-13**
- **Eph. 4:11-16**

Are YOU preparing for the church to have bishops and deacons?

Remember this!

PASTOR = ELDER = BISHOP

What is the Nature of His Work?

- ❖ An elder is one of age, experience, and wisdom.
 - Experience in living for Christ (Heb. 5:14).
 - Sets an example for the congregation (1 Pet. 5:3; Heb. 13:7; Phil. 3:17; 4:9).
 - Leads by example in generosity and hospitality, helping the weak (Acts 20:33-35; James 5:14-15; 1 Tim. 3:2,3; Titus 1:8).
 - Uses his spiritual wisdom to guide the congregation in doctrine and in matters of judgment (Acts 15:13-22; Titus 1:9; 1 Tim. 3:2,6; Heb. 5:14).
- ❖ A pastor is a shepherd .
 - A guide, leader, not driver
 - Lead flock in direction of heaven (Ax 20:26-32; Col. 1:27-28).
 - Lead to “green pastures”, where they can be provided with spiritual food (Jer. 3:15; Psalm 23; John 21:15-17).
 - Equipping the saints for the work of ministry (Eph. 4:12).
 - A protector (1 Sam. 17:34-35)
 - Ensuring an environment safe from division, strife and false teaching (Titus 1:10-13; Jeremiah 23:1-4).
 - Discipline the unruly (Titus 3:9-11; 2 Thes. 3:6).
 - Recover the lost sheep (Luke 15:1-7).
 - Watch (Acts 20:29-31; Heb. 13:17; John 10:11-15).
 - A companion
 - Called his sheep by name (John 10:3).
 - Goes before his sheep (John 10:4).
 - The sheep know his voice (John 10:4).
 - Isaiah 40:1; Ezekiel 3:15; Joshua 8:9; 1 Thes. 5:12-13

