

## *Dealing with Elders*

1 Timothy 5:17-25

<sup>29</sup> I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. <sup>30</sup> Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. (Acts 20:29-30)

### **Two functions of the elder** (17)

#### Ministry of oversite

Lead, care, protect = shepherd

<sup>28</sup> Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. (Acts 20:28)

<sup>2</sup> Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; <sup>3</sup> not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:2-3)

#### Ministry of the word

<sup>9</sup> He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. (Titus 1:9)

### **Dealing with good elders**

#### Reward them (17-18)

<sup>5</sup> "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' <sup>6</sup> If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. (Luke 10:5-7)

#### Protect them (19)

<sup>15</sup> One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. (Deut. 19:15)

### **Dealing with errant elders**

Be public in correcting (20)

Be consistent (21)

Be very careful in appointing elders (22)

One who appoints an unqualified elder is guilty of the consequences of that appointment

### **Personal notes to Timothy**

Watch yourself (23)

Some of the bad teaching may have influenced Timothy

Judgement calls will be difficult (24-25)