

The Structure of the Church

Sunset Church of Christ
Spring Quarter 2015

Ephesians 4:11-13 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

The purpose of this class is: (1) To gain a better understanding for personal and congregational growth of the organization of the church that Jesus built; (2) for the purpose of self-examination as a congregation as to our need to be organized as God planned; (3) to deeply comprehend the purpose and work of the church.

Syllabus

Part I: The Establishment of the Church (April 1-8)

1. The Head of the Church
2. The Foundation of the Church
3. The Authority of the Church

Part II: The Organization of the local church (April 15-May 27)

4. The Need for Oversight
5. God's Design for Elders
6. God's Design for Deacons
7. God's Design for Evangelists
8. God's Design for congregations working with elders, deacons and evangelists

Part III: The Purpose of the church

9. The Work of Benevolence
10. The Work of Edification
11. The Work of Evangelism
12. The Work of Worship

(we are leaving one class vacant for the purpose of additional discussion or absence)

Part I: The Establishment of the Church

Class 1: The Head of the Church

Colossians 1:18 *He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.*

I. The Church as a corporate entity

A. A study of the church would in short time reveal the following:

1. It is both earthly and heavenly
2. It is comprised **ONLY** of believers in Jesus Christ
3. It is comprised of **ALL** believers in Jesus Christ
4. It is designed as a “ship” of salvation
 - a. The vessel in which the Saints are ultimately delivered - 1 Cor. 15:23-24

B. There are two churches: The Local assembly and the Universal assembly

1. The Local assembly is comprised of believers who have made a joint common resolution to work together - I Cor 1:2, Rom 16:16
 - a. We will see it has a local organization of men
 - b. The local church is also called:

(1) The Assembly

2. The Universal assembly is all saved believers living or dead – Heb 12:22-24
 - a. Membership is salvation in the universal church – Acts 2:47

II. The Head of the Universal Church is Jesus Christ – Eph 1:22-24

A. For the Church Jesus offers the following:

1. Mediation - 1 Tim 2:5
2. Sanctification - Eph 5:26
3. Lawgiving - Matt 28:18-20
 - a. Source of Doctrine and Law - 2 John 9

4. Understand the church **does not** offer these things, only Christ offers them

B. The only permanent structure/organization in the Universal Church is Christ the head

1. Apostleship is a temporary role, as seen in the next chapter
2. There are no other roles in the universal church
3. Today, no man can exert any oversight or authority in the universal church without violating the authority of Christ

Question for discussion: In light of the structure of the universal church, what is the full meaning of II Thessalonians 2:3-4? Who is the Son of Perdition today and how does he operate?

Synonyms of the Universal Church:

The Kingdom

The New Covenant

The Way

(Spiritual) Israel

Household/Family of God

The Temple of God

Part I: The Establishment of the Church

Class 2: The Foundation of the Universal Church

Ephesians 2:19-20 *Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the **foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone*

Ephesians 4:11 *And He Himself gave **some to be apostles, some prophets**, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,*

- I. The Universal Church was established by Jesus Christ after His resurrection AD 30
 - A. There are several important passages to consider here
 1. The Authority for the church rests on two “rock” principles:
 - a. Jesus as Christ, the Messiah/savior of men
 - b. Jesus Christ is the Son of God, (Emmanuel) - Mt 16:16 -18, John 20:31
 2. The Authority for the church is the Gospel - I Cor 15:1-4
 3. The Church’s foundation includes the works of others - Eph 2:20
 - a. Apostles – the personal representatives of Christ
 - (1) Charged with seeding the church throughout the world
 - (2) Giving gifts to men for the church’s work - 1 Cor 12:28
 - b. Prophets – who gave the proof of the Christ - John 1:45
 4. Apostles & prophets had a limited work – I Cor. 13:8, 2 Pet. 1:12-21
 - a. While they are called the foundation – Rev. 21:14
 - b. We actually describe them as laying the foundation - 1 Cor 3:9 -11
 - B. We can understand then the following:
 1. The church was founded by Christ, and He incorporated the Apostles in that foundation as His ambassadors (personal representatives)
 - a. Their authority to go into the world was by Christ - Mt 18:18-20
 - b. Their knowledge was by special dispensation - John 16:13
 2. The foundation being laid, there is no other work done in this area
 - C. How is that foundation manifested?
 1. As (New Testament) Scripture, written by Apostles and Prophets – 1 Tim. 3:15
 2. It is an exclusive foundation – 2 Tim. 3:16-17
 - D. Therefore, the universal church cannot be corrupted or damaged
 1. With a permanent foundation – Eph 2:20
 2. With a permanent doctrine – 1 Pet. 1:25
 3. With a permanent membership – Heb. 12:22-24

Question for discussion: Was the Lord’s church restored in the 19th century? What did happen in that period of time?

Part I: The Establishment of the Church

Class 3: The Authority of the Church

1 Timothy 3:15 *but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

- I. The authority of the church comes through the revelation of God - Eph 4:11-12
 - A. The church does not drive doctrine
 - 1. It is composed of members who are driven by doctrine - I Cor 12:12-27
 - 2. It is not an organization that is independent of its members or of its Head
 - 3. It is the joining place of the members and the Head
 - a. It is the relationship of all believers with Christ
 - B. The word for the relationship of all believers and Christ is FELLOWSHIP - 1 John 1:6-8
 - 1. Fellowship is not an action, it is a condition
 - 2. It is not created or broken by the church
 - a. Therefore, another word for church is FELLOWSHIP
 - 3. HE makes it, WE takes it, ME breaks it
 - a. More specifically, it is created by the Head by the Blood of Jesus Christ
 - b. It is broken when we walk in darkness – 1 John 1:6
 - 4. FELLOWSHIP is NOT a verb, it is a noun
- II. The Authority of the Church in our lives
 - A. The authority that the collective has over us is based on SUMMISSION - Eph 5:21
 - 1. Submission to God (James 4:7) and to one another (Php 2:3)
 - 2. We submit to the body and the oversight for our benefit - Heb 13:17
 - 3. Submission is correction we WILLINGLY receive - Gal 6:1; Col 3:16, II Tim 2:25
 - 4. Church behavior is determined by SELF-control, not GROUP control
 - a. Church discipline is in rebuke or disassociation, not punitive
 - B. Submission is only found in Christ-like behavior
- III. The Church has no authority for:
 - A. The creation of Doctrine
 - 1. Eph 5:24 – the church is subject to Christ
 - 2. Rom 16:17 – the church is charged with identifying those who add to doctrine
 - 3. II Tim 4:3 – the charge to the evangelist to abide in the revealed doctrine
 - B. The oversight or involvement of other God-made institutions
 - 1. Marriage
 - 2. Government
 - C. Salvation – the church does not save, it is the location of salvation

Question for discussion: Does the church offer to have fellowship with members or other congregations? Can the church decide with whom it will have membership?

Part II: The Organization of the Church

Class 4: The Need for Oversight

1 Corinthians 12:27-28 *Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.*

I. The Church is designed to operate on the congregational level

A. The dynamic of the church is such that at any time it should be composed of:

1. Stronger and weaker members - Gal 6:1

a. Meaning that its “soundness” is not necessarily reflected in membership

2. Therefore, soundness is more defined by the direction of the congregation

B. The decisiveness of the church

1. The church has no legislative authority, but it does need to make determinations

a. Examples:

(1) Acts 15 – the issue of Gentiles and the law of Moses

(2) I Cor. 6:5 - non-spiritual issues between brethren

2. Implied need is present with instructions such as watching over the flock - Acts 20:29

C. The absence of democracy from the church pattern

1. There is no democratic method found in church order

a. The concept of the “will of the majority” or “majority rules” is not found

2. There is an example of men selected by pre-determined qualifications to watch over

D. The absence of inter-woven organization

1. In every address by apostles, it is to individuals or individual congregations

a. Ex. Churches of Galatia in Gal. 1, churches of Judea, I Cor 14:33

2. We call this autonomy

a. The work of a congregation is overseen **ONLY** by the congregation

b. This concept scripturally excludes two common “churches”

(1) “churches” within churches (such as YMCA, youth groups, etc)

(2) “churches” apart from churches (missionary organizations, etc)

II. The concept of overseers

A. The natural place of older men

1. Elders existed among Jews in position (Mt 16:21, Acts 4:5) and general (Luke 15:25)

2. Most cultures see older members of the community as qualified advisers - Tit 2:1-4

B. The local church is to be overseen by a group of older men set apart by their adherence to Christian virtue and condition in life

1. Multiple men who watch over a congregation – a plurality (Titus 1:5)

C. These men are called:

1. Elders – *presbutros* (translated as Bishops in KJV)

2. Overseers – *episkopos* (aka supervisors)

3. Pastors – *poimon*

a. Only usage Eph 4:11; otherwise translated Shepherd Acts 20:28, I Pet. 5:2)

b. Jesus is called Shepherd in John 10:16, Heb 13:20, I Pet 2:25

Question for discussion: if democracy/voting is not an authorized way of handling church affairs, what Scriptural ways can churches make decisions (hint – Acts 15)?

Part II: The Organization of the Church

Class 5: God's Design for Elders

1 Timothy 3:1 *This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.*

I. Examples of the New Testament Elder

A. Specific men who were examples

1. James – brother of Jesus - Acts 21:18
2. Peter – Apostles to Christ - 1 Peter 5:1
3. John – Apostle to Christ - 2 John 1:1

B. General examples of Elders

1. Elders of Jerusalem - Acts 11:30, Acts 15, Acts 21
2. Elders of the churches established in Asia – Acts 14:23
3. Elders of Ephesus – Acts 20
4. Overseers of Philippi – Php. 1:1

II. Paul's Commands to Titus and Timothy (I Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9)

- A. The work of an overseer is sometimes called an office
- B. The example is of a plurality of men who fill by proxy for Christ
- C. We will see their qualifications in the light of the commands for any Christian

Qualifications of Elders in I Timothy 3:1-11		
Qualification (NKJV)	Greek Word and meaning (Strong's)	Corresponding command to all Christians
A Man		
Desires the work of an elder	<i>oregomai</i> : to stretch oneself, i.e. reach out after (long for):--covet after, desire.	1 Cor 12:31 But earnestly desire the best gifts.
Blameless	<i>anepileptos</i> : from not arrested, i.e. (by implication) inculpable:--blameless, unrebukeable.	1Tim 5:7 And these things command, that they may be blameless.
The husband of one wife	<i>Aner mia gune</i> : one woman man	1 Cor 7:2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.
Temperate	<i>Nephaleos</i> : sober, i.e. (figuratively) circumspect:--sober.	Tit 2:2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;
Sober-minded,	<i>sophron</i> : safe (sound) in mind, i.e. self-controlled (moderate as to opinion or passion):--discreet, sober, temperate.	Tit 2:2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;
Of good behavior,	<i>kosmios</i> , kos'-mee-os : orderly, i.e. decorous:--of good behaviour, modest.	1 Pet 2:12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Hospitable	<i>philoxenos</i> , fil-ox'-en-os : fond of guests, i.e. hospitable:--given to (lover of, use) hospitality.	Heb 13:2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.
Able to teach	<i>didaktikos</i> : instructive ("didactic"):--apt to teach.	2 Tim 2:24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,
Not given to wine,	<i>paroinos</i> : (NOT) staying near wine, i.e. tipling (a toper):--given to wine.	Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,
Not violent,	<i>plektes</i> : a smiter, i.e. pugnacious (quarrelsome):--striker.	Rom 1:30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,
Not greedy for money,	<i>aischrokerdes</i> : sordid:--given to (greedy of) filthy lucre.	Tit 1:11 whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.
Gentle	<i>Epieikes</i> : appropriate, i.e. (by implication) mild:--gentle, moderation, patient.	Php 4:5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.
Not quarrelsome,	<i>Amachos</i> : peaceable:--not a brawler.	2 Tim 2:24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,
Not covetous	<i>Aphilarguros</i> : unavaricious:--without covetousness, not greedy of filthy lucre.	Heb 13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
One who rules his own house well	<i>Proistemi</i> :to stand before, i.e. (in rank) to preside, or (by implication) to practise:--maintain, be over, rule.	Col 4:1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.
Children in submission	<i>Hupotage</i> : subordination:--subjection. <i>Teknon</i> : a child (as produced):--child, daughter, son.	Eph 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
Not a novice,	<i>Neophutos</i> : newly planted, i.e. (figuratively) a young convert ("neophyte"):--novice.	2 Peter 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Qualifications of Elders in I Timothy 3:1-11

Has a good testimony among those who are outside	<i>Marturia</i> : evidence given (judicially or genitive case):--record, report, testimony, witness.	1Pe 2:12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.
Having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.	<i>Pistos</i> :objectively, trustworthy; subjectively, trustful:--believe(-ing, -r), faithful(-ly), sure, true	1 Cor 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.
Not self-willed	<i>Authades</i> : self-pleasing, i.e. arrogant:--self-willed.	2 Pet 2:10 They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,
Not quick tempered	<i>Orgilos</i> ,: irascible:--soon angry	Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

Loves what is good	<i>Philagathos</i> : fond to good, i.e. a promoter of virtue:--love of good men.	Php 4:8 whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-- meditate on these things.
Just	<i>Dikaios</i> : equitable (in character or act); by implication, innocent, holy (absolutely or relatively):--just, meet, right(-eous).	Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."
Holy	<i>Hosios</i> : properly, right i.e. hallowed (pious, sacred, sure):--holy, mercy, undefiled	1 Pet 1:15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."
Holding Fast the word	<i>Antechomai</i> : to hold oneself opposite to, i.e. (by implication) adhere to; by extension to care for:-- hold fast, hold to, support.	2 Timothy 1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

III. Examples of Appointments of Elders in the New Testament

Passage	Who Appointed	How Was It Done	Other Points
Acts 14:23 So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.	Paul & Barnabas	With prayer, fasting & commendation	Within one year of the establishment of the church
Titus 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you--	Titus		Purpose of Titus's evangelism was to appoint elders
1 Timothy 5:21 I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality. 22 Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.	Timothy	Laying on of hands	This passage seems to refer to elders (previous verses), but also may have a broader context; As well, there were elders in place already in Ephesus (Acts 20)
Ephesians 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,	Jesus Christ		Generic appointment of Elders
Acts 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.	Holy Spirit		within 3 years of the establishment of the church; also, the appointment appears generic
1 Corinthians 12:28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.	God		No mention of elders here, but the parallel to Ephesians 4:11 is very suggestive

A. Appointment

1. By the authority of God (through Christ, through the Holy Spirit)

- 2. Accomplished by men - specifically, evangelists
 - a. Is this part of the work of an evangelist?
- B. Method of appointments
 - 1. Laying on of hands - the passing of authority
 - 2. Prayer and fasting - devotional
- C. Time of appointment
 - 1. Clearly not at the inception of a church
 - a. Indicative it is not a sin for a church to be unorganized in and of itself
 - b. Called to be "set in order"
- D. Selection of Elders
 - 1. No direct evidence the church was consulted
 - 2. However - can we imagine the appointment of an undesired overseer?
 - a. In the appointment of the men in Acts 6, the church selected them

III. The removal of Elders - 1 Tim. 5:19

- A. This seems to be the model for the address of public sin
 - 1. Multiple Public rebukes – Tit 3:10, Gal. 2:14
 - 2. Removal from fellowship -
- B. Is this the work of an evangelist?

IV. The Duties of elders

Passage	Duties
Ephesians 4:11-12 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the (1) equipping of the saints (2) for the work of ministry, (3) for the edifying of the body of Christ,	GENERAL: To aid in the work of the church 1. Perfection(maturity, <i>Katartizo</i>) 2. Ministry (<i>Diakonia</i> , taking care of Saints) 3. Building (<i>Oikodoma</i>)
1 Peter 5:1-4 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, servng as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.	1. Shepherd (verb) 2. Serving (eagerly and willingly) 3. By being examples
1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. 18 For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."	1. Rule (proistemi: to stand before)
Hebrews 13:7 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.	1. Rule (hegeomai: to lead, i.e. command (with official authority))
Hebrews 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.	1. Rule (hegemoi)

1 Thessalonians 5:12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,	1. Labor 2. Admonish
Acts 20:28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 "Therefore watch	1. Take heed/watch for false teachers from without and within
Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.....11 whose mouths must be stopped, 13 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith	1. Exhort 2. Convict those who contradict (disputer/gainsayer)
Titus 1:7 For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God.....	1. Stewardship (oikonomos, the house feeder)
1 Timothy 3:5 (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);	1. Take Care (epimeleomai, to care over)

- A. From these lists we can see a theme of the duties of elders:
1. To stand before the church as an example of Godliness
 2. To preserve the congregation by:
 - a. Seeing that they are provided for (fed spiritually)
 - b. Correcting those who are in error
- B. These tasks are the authority of the elders
1. Like any other authority from scripture, they have to observe the generic and specific limits of their authority
- C. Where is the authority of the elders not present?
1. The Home
 - a. The head of the home is the father - 1 Tim 3:4, 1 Tim 3:12
 - b. The protector of the home is the mother – Tit 2:5, Eph 6:1
 - b. The head of the marriage is the husband - Eph 5:23
 2. The community
 - a. The head of the community is "Caesar" - Rom 13:1, 1 Pet 2:13
 3. Other churches
 - a. The head of other Christians (as a single church) is Christ
 - b. The oversight of other churches are those elders appointed there- Acts 20:28

Part II: The Organization of the Church

Class 6: God's Design for Deacons

1 Timothy 3:13 *For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

I. Examples of the New Testament Deacon

- A. General examples of deacons - Deacons of Philippi – Php. 1:1
- B. Indirect examples of Deacons (not in the local church office) - Men of Acts 6

II. Paul Commands Timothy (I Timothy 3:8-13)

- A. The work of a deacon is sometimes called an office
- B. The example is of a plurality of men who serve Christ and the church
- C. We will see their qualifications in the light of the commands for any Christian

Qualifications of Deacons in I Timothy 3:8-13		
Listed Qualification (NKJV)	Greek Word and meaning	Corresponding command to all Christians
a man & husband		
Reverent/grave	<i>semnos</i> : venerable, i.e. honorable:--grave, honest. (related to revered)	Tit 2:2 that the older men be sober.....
not double tongued	<i>dilogos</i> : lit. 2 worded; equivocal, i.e. telling a different story:--double-tongued	Matt 5:37 "But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.
not given to much wine	<i>prosecho polus oinos</i> : 1. To be held; 2. long or much; 3. wine (Hebrew equivalent - drunk)	Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit
not greedy for money	<i>aischrokerdes</i> : - shameful accumulation or profit	Heb 13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness.....
holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience	<i>katharos suneidesis</i> : pure or clean conscious/moral awareness (see James 1:27)	1 Tim 1:19 having faith and a good conscience.....
blameless	<i>anegkletos</i> : with no charge or accusation	1Tim 5:7 And these things command, that they may be blameless.
husbands of one wife	<i>Aner mia gune</i> : one woman man	1 Cor 7:2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.

ruling their children and their own houses well	<i>Proistemi</i> : to stand before, i.e. (in rank) to preside, or (by implication) to practise:-- maintain, be over, rule.	Eph 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
(wives) reverent	<i>semnos</i> : venerable, i.e. honorable:--grave, honest. (related to revered)	Tit 2:3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers
not slanderers	<i>me diablos</i> : not (falsely) accusative	Tit 2:3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers
temperate	<i>Nephaleos</i> : sober, i.e. (figuratively) circumspect:--sober.	Tit 2:2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;
faithful in all things	<i>pistos en pas</i> : faithful in all	1 Cor 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

II. Unstated qualifications of deacons

A. Examples in Acts 6

1. Full of the Spirit and Wisdom - Acts 6:10
2. Peacemakers and lovers of the brethren

B. Ability to labor

Question to consider: the Bible calls Phoebe a servant of the church, which could be translated "deaconess" (Romans 16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea,) Is there a reason why Phoebe could not have been a female deacon office holder?

Part II: The Organization of the Church

Class 7: God's Design for Evangelists

2 Timothy 4:5 *But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

I. Paul's Commands to Timothy (II Timothy 2:24-26)

- A. The work of an evangelist/minister/preacher/parson is sometimes called an office
- B. The example is of either one or a plurality of men who:
 1. Serve the church in edification
 2. Reach the lost in evangelism
- C. We will see their qualifications in the light of the commands for any Christian

Qualifications of Ministers in II Timothy 2:24-26		
Listed Qualification (NKJV)	Greek Word and meaning	Corresponding command to all Christians
a man		
a man - servant	doulos: man slave	Rom 6:16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness
Does not quarrel	machomai: to fight or war	James 4:2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.
Gentle	epios: mild or kind, gentle	Tit 3:2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle , showing all humility to all men
Apt to teach	didaktikos: able to teach	Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another.....
Patient	anexikakos: enduring of ill, patient	1 Pet 2:20? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently , this is commendable before God.
meekly instructing	praotes: gentleness, humility/meekness	Tit 3:2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men
meekly instructing	paideuo: to train up a child; educate	1 Cor 2:16 For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

II. The work of the Evangelist – local or universal?

- A. There is a question as to whether an evangelist is a local work or universal work
 1. One who goes out to the lost
 2. We typically seek evangelists from outside the congregation
- B. The Evangelist in the church is a local office
 1. ALL duties listed in Scripture revolve around the local church
 2. The Evangelist is one of several offices given to the church - Ephesians 4:11-12
- C. The duty of the evangelist revolves around enabling brethren to work for the Lord

Duties of Ministers in II Timothy 4:2-5		
Preach the word	kerusso logos: herald or proclaim, the word	Rom 2:21 You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?
Preparation (be ready)	ephistemi: to be present or at hand	1 Pet 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;
Convince	elegcho: to admonish or convict	Eph 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.
Rebuke	epitimao: tax, censure or forbid	Luke 17:3 Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him ; and if he repents, forgive him.
Exhort	parakaleo: to call near (to encourage behavior)	Rom 12:8 he who exhorts , in exhortation ;
Patience and longsuffering	makrothumia kia didache: long suffering & teaching	1 Pet 2:20 But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.
Be watchful	nepho: abstain from wine (be vigilant)	1 Pet 5:8 Be sober , be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
Do the work of an evangelist	ergon euaggelistes: work as one with good news	Rom 10:15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things! "
Duties of Ministers in I Timothy 4:13-16		
give attention to reading	anagnosis: (the act of) reading:--reading.	Acts 13:15 "Men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on."
give attention to doctrine	didaskalia: instruction (the function or the information):--doctrine, learning, teaching.	1Tim 6:3 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness,
Meditate (on the above)	meletao: to revolve in the mind	Php 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-- meditate on these things.
Duties of Ministers in II Timothy 2:15		
Study	spoudazo: to use speed, i.e. to make effort, be prompt or earnest:--do (give) diligence, be diligent (forward), endeavour, labour, study.	Eph 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
Shun idle and profane babblers	periistemi: to stand all around and prevent bystanders	Tit 3:9 But avoid foolish disputes , genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless

Part II: The Organization of the Church

Class 8: God's Design for Congregations and Workers

Hebrews 13:17 *Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.*

I. General Consideration

- A. The general purpose of the works of elders, deacons & preachers – Eph. 4:12
- B. Tasked with preparing the whole of the church for work in Christ – Eph 2:10

II. The duty of the congregation members to the elders

A. Submission

- 1. As in all things, we are bound to submit - 1 Pet. 5:5, 1 Cor. 16:15
- 2. Submission means we trust their judgment, to the degree of their authority

B. Honor

- 1. We are commanded to give honor - 1 Tim 5:17-18
 - a. Honor by the way we speak and defer
 - b. Honor in our behavior
 - c. Seek for the best of those who lead
- 2. Avoiding dishonorable actions

C. Attentiveness

- 1. Watchful in submission
- 2. To watch for both our security and theirs - 1Ti 5:19-20

D. Obedience

- 1. Obedience in submission - Heb 13:17
- 2. Remember the great burden you give them

III. Obligation to God to desire proper church organization and oversight

- A. Because it is the pattern of Christ's church - 2 Tim. 1:13
 - 1. That desire should include wanting to be in that pattern
- B. Because we recognize we NEED oversight - Heb 13:17
 - 1. We often believe we need no admonishment or exhortation
 - 2. If we believe Christ, we must also believe we need admonition & exhortation
- C. Because it is necessary for congregational growth
 - 1. Paul's admonition Eph 4:11-13
 - 2. These things are necessary for growth – Eph 4:15-16

***Question: Is there a time that we might not submit as members to the evangelist or elders?
How would we handle this event?***

Part III: The Purpose of the church

Class 9: The Work of Benevolence

Ephesians 4:12 *for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;*

I. General Consideration

- A. Jesus gave the church Scripture, elders, deacons & preachers – Eph. 4:11
- B. Tasked with preparing the whole of the church for work in Christ – Eph. 2:10
- C. The purpose of the church is the end result church structure begins – Eph. 4:12
 - 1. That work is found as benevolence
 - 2. That work is found as edification
 - 3. That work is found as evangelism

II. The church's work of benevolence

- A. Benevolence (good will) - Titus 3:8
 - 1. Benevolence was the FIRST WORK of the church – Acts 6:1-6
 - 2. In the church, it refers to meeting the physical needs of the saints
 - a. Examples of benevolence:
 - (1) Saints in Judea during a famine – Acts 11:27-30, Gal 2
 - (2) Care for the widows – I Tim. 5:3-11
 - (3) Needy saints within a congregation – Acts 4:34-35
 - b. Commandments to the church on benevolence
 - (1) Taking up the collection – I Cor. 16:1-2, II Cor. 9:7
 - (2) Qualifications for receiving aid – I Tim. 5:9-11
 - 3. The Church is the agency of Christ's promises of Matt 6:33
- B. The limitations of congregational benevolence
 - 1. To the Saint – II Thes. 3:10
 - 2. To the unbeliever
 - a. There is NO example of aid being given to the unbeliever (Acts 3:1-6)
 - b. We understand that such would overburden the church
 - 3. Individual benevolence is for all men Gal 6:10, James 1:27
 - a. Done in our day to day activity per Eph 6:7
 - b. consider the list of good works for a widow indeed - I Tim 5:10
 - c. Rich are required to have good works - I Tim 6:17-19

Question to consider: Why is so much emphasis found on this work in the church in Scripture?

Part III: The Purpose of the church

Class 10: The Work of Edification

Ephesians 4:12 *for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;*

I. General Consideration

- A. Jesus gave the church Scripture, elders, deacons & preachers – Eph. 4:11
- B. Tasked with preparing the whole of the church for work in Christ – Eph. 2:10
- C. The purpose of the church is the end result church structure begins – Eph. 4:12
 - 1. That work is found as benevolence
 - 2. That work is found as edification
 - 3. That work is found as evangelism

II. The church's work of Edification

- A. The work of building Saints up – Eph. 4:15-16
 - 1. Building up is NOT an emotional effort
 - a. No one should describe edification as a feeling
 - b. Many leave the church not “feeling edified”
 - 2. Building up is described as “equipping for good works” (Eph 4:12)
 - a. Equipping – providing the skills and tools to accomplish a purpose
 - b. Primary “equipment” is Scripture – II Tim. 3:17
 - c. Thus edification refers to fulfilling II Tim. 2:15
- B. Accomplishing the work of building up
 - 1. Examples of the church's work of edification
 - a. By instruction in doctrine
 - (1) by the evangelist – I Tim. 1:3, 4:6, Tit. 2:1-7, II Tim. 4:1-3
 - (a) Public exhortation – I Tim. 4:13 (esp. NASB)
 - (2) by the elders – Tit. 1:9
 - b. By providing opportunities to work – I Cor. 12:4-8, 12-28
 - 2. Commandments to the church – Rev 2-3
 - a. Doctrinal purity
 - b. Works
- C. Practical ways which the church (with the work of elders, evangelist) edifies
 - 1. Bible classes
 - 2. Sermons
 - 3. Website
 - 4. Printed materials

Question: Is the work of the church to edify the individual Christian, or is it the work of an individual Christian to edify the church?

