

Oversight of the Local Church

Jer 6:16

Mt 19:8

2Tim 1:13

God Appointed Oversight

- ◆ Mt 19:28; Ac 2:42; 1Co 14:37,38 - Apostles
- ◆ Ac 20:17,28; 1Pt 5:1,2

Three terms ...

- Elders (Presbyters) - *experience, maturity*
- Bishops (Overseers) - *watch over, superintend [1Tim 2:12];*
- Pastors (Shepherds) - *tends (including feeding) a flock*

God Appointed Oversight

- ◆ Ac 14:23; 15:4; 20:17... Plurality each cong.
- ◆ Ac 20:17,28; 1Pt 5:1,2
Oversight limited to local congregation —
“among which” “among you”
- ◆ 1Tim Tit 1... Character qualifications
- ◆ Ac 11:30; 20:17-35; 1Th 5:14-22; Tit 1:9... Work qualifications
- ◆ Ac 14:23; Tit 1:5; 1Tim 3:1,15 God's plan

God Appointed Oversight

Congregational meetings ... ?

- **Ac 14:23** - existed without elders
- **Ac 4:32** - “common” fund
- **Php 1:27** - “team”
- Unity of mind re “common” fund, representatives ...
- **Ac 6:1-6; 15:12...22** (*note: cong. meeting where apos., elders present*)

Substitutions

- *Preacher rule ("Pastor" system)*
- *Dominant individuals (men or women)*
- *Voting (majority rule)*
- *Objector rule (minority rule)*
- *Sponsoring "elders"*
- *Board of directors (preaching, edific., benev.)*
- *Colleges, papers, preachers*

Rejection of God Appointed Oversight and Apostasy

- ◆ Israel **I Sam 8:4-7**
- ◆ Second century ...Roman Catholic Church
- ◆ Nineteenth century ...Christian Church
- ◆ Twentieth century ...???

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