

DOCTRINE OF ELDERS IN N.T.

The Greek word for Elder according to Thayer.

1. Of Age.

- (a) Where two persons are spoken of, the elder
Luke 15:25
- (b) Advanced in life. A Senior, as opposed to
a young man. Acts 2:17; as opposed to
younger 1 Tim. 5:1 cf Heb. 11:2.

2. A Term of Rank or Office -- selected from elderly men.

- (a) Among the Jews. Members of Council of Sanhedrin.
Matt. 26:47,57,59. Acts 4:5-23 et al.
- (b) Among the Christians -- those who presided over
the churches or assemblies. Acts 11:30; 14:23;
Acts 14:2-4-6-22; 16:4; 21:18. 1 Tim. 5:17-19.
Tit. 1:5; 2 John 1; 3 John 1; 1 Pet. 5:1-15.

In the Christian Church they were:

1. Appointed. Tit. 1:5.

"Set in order." As setting a bone. In churches
they do this by "Appointing elders".

2. Chosen. Acts 14:23 cf 2 Cor 8:19.

"Extending the hand." "Who was also chosen of the
churches" 2 Cor. 8:19. "A shew of hands." Literally
"Hand stretched out" as in a vote. The method of
ordaining and choosing.

3. It was done in "every church." Acts 14:23, and "every city" Tit. 1:5 (Where there was church).

4. They did not differ from bishops. Words are used indiscriminately. Acts 20:17-28. Tit. 1:5-7.

"Ordain elders v. 5 "A Bishop etc." v. 7.

"Call elders" Acts 20:17; "Holy Short----bishops
Acts 20:28.

Presbytr denotes the dignity from the Hebrew

"Episkopos," Denotes the function, From Greek.
cf. Phil 1:1 1 Tim. 3:1-8.

(OVER)

1. There were elders in Jerus.-Church. Acts 17:30
2. Method of Paul and Barnabas. Acts 14:23
 - (a) Appointed by stretching out hand. Acts 14:23-Tit.1:5.
 - (b) After prayer with fasting. 14:23
 - (c) This done in every church.
 - (d) They were then commended to Lord.
3. Questions settled by Apostles and Elders.
Acts 15:2-4-6; 21:18.
4. All church. Apostles -- Elders -- Church -- 15:22-23
5. Decrees of church issued by apos. & elders. Acts 16:4
6. Paul Consulted with Elders. 20:17-28.
 - (a) Take heed to yourselves.
 - (b) Take heed to flock to feed them.
 - (c) Set over them by Holy Spirit.
7. Elder not to be rebuked. 1 Tim 5:1
8. Good rulers worthy of double honor. " 5:17
9. Evidently more than one kind. " 5:17
10. If accused - 2 or 3 witnesses. " 5:19
11. Requirements, positive and negative. " 1:6,7,8.
12. Titus by Paul's command ordained. " 1:5
13. An Elder must be able to " 1:9
 - (a) Learn. Stand for himself. "Holding fast"
 - (b) Teach -- To be instructed in Word - "Sound doctrine"
To exhort and convince.

Summary:

1. Every church had elders. Acts 11:30; 14:23; Tit.1:5.
2. They were evidently of two kinds. 1 Tim. 5:17.
Those who labor in word and doctrine. Acts 20:28
Those who do not.
3. They and families must have good record. Tit. 1:6-8.
4. They must be able to learn and teach. Tit. 1:9.
5. They were chosen by (ordained)
(a) Vote of people. Acts 14:23
6. All church matters settled by -- 16:4; 21:18
Apostles, Elders, Brethren Acts 15:2,4,6,22,23.
7. Those who rule counted worthy double honor. 1:7; 5:17.
8. Not rebuked but entreated. cf L Tim 5:1 and 5:19
Accusation before 2 or 3 witnesses.
9. Paul consulted them and left church, in their charge.
Acts 20:17-35