

Studying About Elders Is Beneficial To Us All

I. Introduction:

A. Anytime you are learning from the word of God you are learning something that is somehow beneficial for you (**II Timothy 3:14-17**).

1. Every word of God is beneficial to us (**Luke 4:4**).
2. God's word is a book of enlightenment (**Psalms 119:129-130**).

B. The Scriptures show us the importance of having elders in every congregation (**Acts 14:23** and **Titus 1:5**).

1. Qualified elders would oversee us, spiritually feed us, and lead us by being godly examples (**I Peter 5:1-3**).
2. They would be watchman for our souls (**Hebrews 13:17**).

II. Body: Let's Consider How Learning About The Qualifications/Work of Elders Is Beneficial To Us On Many Levels (**Proverbs 1:5; 9:9**).

A. Most of the qualifications for elders apply to all Christians (**I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9**).

1. Doesn't "good work" apply to us all (**Ephesians 2:10**)?
2. Doesn't being blameless apply to us all (**Philippians 2:14-16**)?
3. Doesn't some teaching ability apply to us all (**Hebrews 5:12-14**)?
4. Doesn't temperance apply to us all (**I Corinthians 9:24-27**)?
5. Doesn't holiness apply to us all (**I Peter 1:13-16**)?
6. Doesn't the subject matter of hospitality apply to us all (**I Peter 4:9**)?
7. Doesn't avoidance of alcoholic beverages apply to us all (**Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-35** and **I Thessalonians 5:7-8**)?
8. ...And on we could go, but you should see the point!

B. We need to be able to identify qualified/unqualified men (**Ephesians 5:6-11**).

1. Elders, even when appointed by the Holy Spirit, aren't always a "sure thing" (**Acts 20:28-31**).
2. Following the wrong kind of leaders ends in destruction (**Isaiah 3:12**).
3. If we are ignorant we will be easy prey (**Proverbs 22:3, Hosea 4:1-11, II Timothy 3:1-7, and II Peter 3:17**).

C. We are working hard to secure this congregation. However, history tells us that hard work can be quickly undone (**Judges 2:6-15**).

1. It is my work to teach and protect against error (**II Timothy 4:1-5**), but I will not live forever.
2. Look at how Jesus thought about the future (**John 21:15-17**).

III. Conclusion: Next month, we will begin a study about elders. Don't wait until then to start thinking about how you might be, help others become, or aid the upbringing of our future leaders (**Psalms 78:3-8**).