

**Welcome to the Worship Celebration of**



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

# Church – The Beginnings, Part 64

## Paul's Charge to the Ephesian Elders – Part 1

### Acts 20:17-38



## Acts 20:17-38 New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.

<sup>18</sup> And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, <sup>19</sup> serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; <sup>20</sup> how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. <sup>24</sup> But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

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### **1. The Elders of Ephesus in Miletus – Leadership Conference**

**- Precepts, Principles and Patterns → the 3 Ps (God’s IDEAL)**

**The Pattern for Leadership (Eldership) is MULTIPLE per congregation, per local church family (see Philippians 1:1 → saints, elders, and deacons).**

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**The focus is on the local church family, not leadership over multiple congregations, but singular focus. The only exception is the capital “A” Apostles – as we see in Peter, John, and Paul. They did have leadership influence over multiple congregations (see Rev. 1 – 3 re: John, etc.). From that point forward there is no 3- Ps that addresses leadership that would span multiple congregations such as our modern concept of “Bishop”.**

**Thus we will use the Term “ELDER” for this level of leadership – other equivalent terms could be “pastor”, “pastoral elder”, or “bishop” – elder is better in this case.**

# “Pastor / Bishop / Elder”

Different aspects of the same office / individuals  
Acts 20:17-32  
1 Tim 3:1-7  
1 Pet. 5:1-4

**Each emphasizing a different aspect of the work and function pertaining to the office.**

- ◆ **Elder** - [presbuteros] denotes age and seasoned wisdom that belong to its experiences. Acts 20:17; 1 Pet 5:1
- ◆ **Bishop** – [episkopos] – Denotes the overseeing function – Not legislative, but leading and enforcing within the Law of God – Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:2; (Heb 13:7,17)
- ◆ **Pastor, shepherd** – [poimen] – Emphasizes the care, watching and feeding of the flock of God. – Act 20:28; Ep 4:11; 1 Pet 5:2

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### **Benefits of Multiple Eldership**

- a. Mutual Accountability**
- b. Protection against Heresy**
- c. Fellowship of “kind” - kinship - elders need other elders (simply)**

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**2. Paul uses himself as an Example – as a Pattern of Life and Ministry for these Elders to follow – as they lead their congregation, together.**

**1 Cor. 11:1 → Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.**

**1 Timothy 1:12-16 → Jesus made Paul a template/pattern for all who would come to Christ thereafter.**

**Paul worked night and day – for his own income, but also with his Missionary Team to make sure that the church in Ephesus was strong in Christ and in His Word – doctrinally sound in Christ. (also read Acts 20:35)**

**What LEGACY are you leaving behind?**

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### **3. Paul’s 20:20 Pattern – meeting Publicly and from House to House**

**This was a continuous Pattern of gathering together as a local church family – from Pentecost (Acts 2) and onward. This continued onward, even when they had public meeting places of their own (owned their own buildings) – they still met Publicly and from House to House – up until it became illegal shortly after the Roman Emperor Constantine (the First) married the church to the state (i.e.: the beginnings of the Roman Catholic church – ref: Roman Emperor Theodosius (the First)) ~ 400s A.D. ( go to: <https://NLFJI.org/2Wings> )**

**Acts 20:20, 27, 28:**

**<sup>20</sup> how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. ...**

**<sup>27</sup> For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. <sup>28</sup> 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.**

#### **4. Ministry of the WORD – what was the substance and content?**

**The Word of God Preached: calling sinners to Repentance ...  
Repentance away from sin, Repentance toward God in Christ  
Calling Sinners to Trust in Christ for their Salvation.**

**After Salvation: Equipping, Teaching, Training of the saints.**

- a. Based on the Example of Life in Christ (Paul's manner of living)**
- b. Based on the Full Revelation of God (the whole counsel of God)  
(The Bible → 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-4:4; 1 Tim. 5:17-18)**

**1 Timothy 4:10-16:**

**<sup>10</sup> For this reason we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.**

**<sup>11</sup> Command and teach these things. <sup>12</sup> Don't let anyone despise your youth, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity. <sup>13</sup> Until I come, give your attention to public reading, exhortation, and teaching. <sup>14</sup> Don't neglect the gift that is in you; it was given to you through prophecy, with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. <sup>15</sup> Practice these things; be committed to them, so that your progress may be evident to all. <sup>16</sup> Pay close attention to your life AND your teaching; PERSEVERE in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.**

**The focus was his LIFEstyle (his Living) of his LIFE as a Disciple of Christ as an Example to others**

**AND**

**His TEACHINGS – His Doctrine that he held (embraced) and Taught**

**His Life and His Teaching must be Consistent with each other as and Example**

**2 Timothy 2:15 - Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.**

**2 Timothy 3:16 – 4:4**

**<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; <sup>17</sup> so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (Scripture is Enough)**

**4:1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup> PREACH the WORD; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.**

**Elders are EXAMPLES to the Flock of God → Leadership is Necessary  
LEGACY of LIFE and DOCTRINE for the Church – what about our Legacy?**