

The Work of a NT Elder



The term elder refers to the relative age of someone, but the terms overseer and shepherd describe the actual work.

Words Used For Elders

⌘ Acts 20:17

17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.

⌘ Acts 20:28

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.

⌘ Elder (πρεσβύτερος) ~ Older or An official; translated as Elder or Presbyter

⌘ Overseer (ἐπίσκοπος) ~ One who has the responsibility of safeguarding or seeing to it that something is done in the correct way, guardian; translated as Bishop or Overseer

⌘ Shepherd (Ποιμαίνω) ~ To herd or act as a shepherd; translated as Shepherd or Pastor

A Gift From Christ

⌘ Ephesians 4:11-13

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Paul Exhorts Elders

⌘ Acts 20:28-35

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.

... 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

32 “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

33 I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel.

34 Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me.

35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

Peter Exhorts Elders

⌘ 1Peter 5:1-4

1 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:

2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Responsibilities of Elders

- ⌘ **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.”
- ⌘ **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.”

Ps 23 ~ Example of Chief Shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your
staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my
life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.