

**“Why Elder Led?”**  
**Acts 20:17-38 {p. 110} 7/24/2011**

*“Be on guard for yourselves and for 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. Acts 20:28*

**Theme: Who does God hold responsible for the leading of the church? The Elders or the Congregation.**

**Background**

**1. The Apostle Paul is concluding his 3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey.**

**Paul’s address to the Elders of the Ephesian church. [17-38]**

**1. He reviews his ministry of the \_\_\_\_\_. [18-21]**

- 1) I served the Lord.
- 2) I did not shrink from teaching.
- 3) I testified to both Jews and Gentiles the gospel.

**2. He expresses his plans for the \_\_\_\_\_. [22-27]**

- 1) I am on my way to Jerusalem.
- 2) I am informed by the Spirit, bonds & afflictions await me.
- 3) I am ready to finish my course and my ministry.

**3. He warns of dangers in the \_\_\_\_\_. [28-31]**

**4. He blesses them & shows himself as an example. [32-38]**

**The Responsibilities of the Elders.**

**1) They are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church. [28; 1 Tim. 3:1-2]**

**A. The meaning of overseer:** Episkopos – “to look over”.

**B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of an overseer. [Acts 20:28]**

**Acts 14:23** When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

**Titus 1:5** For this reason I [Paul] left you [Titus] in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,

**C. The \_\_\_\_\_ of an overseer.**

**(1) To \_\_\_\_\_ the church.** [proistemi – to set over, to rule] 1 Tim. 3:4-5 // 1 Tim. 5:17 // 1 Thess. 5:12-13]

**(2) To \_\_\_\_\_ the church.** [hegeomai – to lead, rule] Hebrews 13:7, 17

**(3) To give \_\_\_\_\_ to the church.** Acts 20:28

**D. The \_\_\_\_\_ of an overseer.**

*“Be on guard for yourselves”* [1 Tim. 4:16 (12-15)]

**2) They are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church. [28]**

**A. The meaning of shepherd:** poimaino “to tend, pasture”

1 Peter 5:2 Elders- *‘shepherd the flock of God’*

**B. The meaning of flock:** \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

**C. The duties of a shepherd.**

**(1) To \_\_\_\_\_ the flock.** [1 Tim. 3:2]

**Titus 1:9** “holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.”

**(2) To \_\_\_\_\_ and care for the flock.** [Psalm 23:1-3]

**(3) To \_\_\_\_\_ the flock.** [Acts 20:29-31]

**Matt. 7:15** “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

**D. The challenges of a shepherd.**

**(1) He must be on \_\_\_\_\_.** [31a]

**(2) He must pay close attention to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**(3) He must always remember that the flock of God, the church, belongs to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Conclusion: So where does congregational rule for church government come from?**