

26 February 2017: Preached by Preacher Clement

Topic: A Church in Order: Qualified Elders (1)

Scripture text: 1 Tim 3:1; Acts 20:28-35

1. After covering corporate worship and the primary roles of men and women in church, Apostle Paul now deals with the leadership of the church. Appointment of leaders must not be taken lightly and cannot follow worldly methods. The leaders are to be examples of the gospel. The standards are set by God and for all to strive to follow.

2. The term "elder" emphasises the honour and graveness of the office while the term "bishop" emphasises the function of the officer as an overseer. The Elder must be someone who is called and must be a male. He must know in his heart that he is called and will therefore have the desire to serve God. It must be a wholehearted dedication for the work which is a good work. He must not aim for the office but be willing and have the heart for the work.

3. The person who is an Elder must take care of his own life, looking after his own spiritual walk. This means the person must love God's Word and study God's Word. He must also be prayerful. Then, he must feed the flock which means to shepherd. To shepherd is to teach God's Word. There will be people who will try to draw the church away from God and so we must be on guard, to watch and protect the church. The duty of the Elder is to teach and warn, to support the weak and to be an example of giving.