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A Study Guide to  
Alexander Strauch’s   
*Biblical Eldership*

PART 3—The Exposition of Scripture

Chapter 7: The Acts of the Apostles

Read Chapter 7: The Acts of the Apostles

**Q:** Strauch gives a brief survey of the Old Testament elder. How does this study inform the New Testament office of elder? What can we take from the Old Testament in order to learn about the New Testament role and function of elders?

Answer here

**Q:** In **Acts 15:1-6**, the elders participated with the Apostles in judging doctrinal issues.How does this work out in real life? Think through this carefully. What steps do elders need to take in order to judge doctrinal issues correctly, protect the church from error and false teachers, and help resolve theological conflicts?

Answer here

**Q**: What does **Acts 14:23** teach about biblical eldership? Be specific.

Answer here

**Q:** Strauch wrote that elders “should master thoroughly the content of Paul’s apostolic message to the Ephesian elders…. Every new generation of elders must grasp afresh the prophetic message to the Ephesian elders: Guard the church − wolves are coming” (pg. 140). What do we learn about biblical eldership from **Acts 20:17-38**? Be specific.

Answer here

**Q**: By way of application and in light of this chapter, what should you do if you are going to pursue the office of elder? Be specific.

Answer here

Chapter 8: Paul’s Letters to the Churches

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**Q:** What does **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13** require of the congregation in their relationship to church leadership? What will this look like in the life of the church?

Answer here

**Q:** What does this same passage assume about leadership? What things ought to characterize leaders according to these verses?

Answer here

**Q**: Strauch unpacks the meaning of the word “instruction” (pg. 168-169). What does the word mean and how can it be done in an effective way by the leadership?

Answer here

**Q:** Why is love such a vital aspect of the relationship between the congregation and the leaders? What difference does it make in the life of the church?

Answer here

**Q:** Strauch wrote, “Paul’s brief mention of overseers and deacons provides a wealth of valuable information for our study on eldership” (pg. 174). How does **Philippians 1:1** inform our doctrine of church government?

Answer here

**Q**: By way of application and in light of this chapter, what should you do if you are going to pursue the office of elder? Be specific.

Answer here

Chapter 9: Paul’s Instruction to Timothy

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**Q:** Paul provides a list of requirements for elders in **1 Timothy 3:1-7**. How would you define and describe each of the following biblical requirements for an elder: “above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money, a man who manages his household well, not a new convert, and a man with a good reputation among nonbelievers”?

Answer Here

**Q**: Strauch has a section on the examination of potential elders. How do you see this working out in real life in the local church?

Answer Here

**Q:** Paul provides further instructions about elders in **1 Timothy 5:17-21**. How does church discipline work when it comes to an elder?

Answer Here

**Q**: Paul also wrote about the laying on of hands in **1 Timothy 4:14, 5:22, and 2 Timothy 1:6**. What is the biblical significance of this ceremony? What does it mean specifically when it comes to appointing someone to the office of elder?

Answer Here

**Q**: By way of application and in light of this chapter, what should you do if you are going to pursue the office of elder? Be specific. Do you meet these qualifications? Are there specific areas that need to be addressed and improved upon before you should consider entering the office of elder?

Answer Here

Chapter 10: Paul’s Instruction to Titus

Read Chapter 10: Paul’s Instruction to Titus

**Q:** What is the significance of **Titus 1:5** as it pertains to appointing elders? Put another way, does this passage teach us anything about how we should go about appointing elders in our own day?

Answer here

**Q:** Paul provides a list of requirements for elders in **Titus 1:6-9**. How would you define and describe each of the following biblical requirements for an elder: “above reproach, having children who believe, not self-willed, not fond of sordid gain, loving what is good, just, devout, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word… able to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict”?

Answer here

**Q:** In this chapter Strauch discusses the fact that elders are *stewards* (pg. 231). What does this word mean? How does this description help to define the elders’ position and responsibilities in the church?

Answer here

**Q**: By way of application and in light of this chapter, what should you do if you are going to pursue the office of elder? Be specific. Do you meet these qualifications? Are there specific areas that need to be addressed and improved upon before you should consider entering the office of elder?

Answer here

Chapter 11: Peter’s Instruction to   
Asian Elders

Read Chapter 11: Peter’s Instruction to Asian Elders

**Q:** Strauch revisits the shepherding metaphor in this chapter. What does it mean to be a *shepherd*, not of sheep, but of a group of people?

Answer here

**Q:** Peter provides a list of requirements/motives for elders in **1 Peter 5:1-5**. How would you define and describe each of the following biblical requirements for an elder: “not under compulsion, but voluntarily; not for money, but with eagerness; not as autocratic leaders, but as examples”?

Answer here

**Q:** Stauch wrote that “when churches experience persecution and suffering, it falls primarily on the church leadership to provide help, comfort, strength, and guidance (pg. 240). How should elders lead people through times of persecution?

Answer here

**Q:** How should the truth that Jesus is the Chief Shepherd impact elders?

Answer here

**Q:** Faithful pastors have a reward when Jesus returns. How should that future reality influence an elder in his present ministry?

Answer here

**Q**: By way of application and in light of this chapter, what should you do if you are going to pursue the office of elder? Be specific. Do you have these good motives? Are you tempted by wrong motives? Are there specific areas that need to be addressed and improved upon before you should consider entering the office of elder?

Answer here

Chapter 12: James’ Instruction to the Sick

Read Chapter 12: James’ Instruction to the Sick

**Q:** How does **James 5:13-16** inform pastoral ministry? Be specific. What can be learned about proper shepherding from this passage?

Answer here

**Q:** What should happen when a person requests that the elders pray over them because of sickness? What is the process? What steps are involved?

Answer here

**Q:** Strauch quotes Kistemaker who writes, “The practice of calling on the elders of the church to pray over the sick seems to belong to a bygone age” (pg. 255). Why is this? Should we still practice this today? Defend your answer.

Answer here

**Q:** James writes that it is the prayer “offered in faith” which will restore the person. What does this mean? What does this mean for elders?

Answer here

**Q:** What is the relationship between sin, sickness, healing, and forgiveness in this passage? How should these connections influence the actions of the elders when they gather to pray over someone who is sick?

Answer here

**Q**: By way of application and in light of this chapter, what should you do if you are going to pursue the office of elder? Be specific.

Answer here

Chapter 13: Hebrews: Obey Your Leaders

Read Chapter 13: Hebrews: Obey Your Leaders

**Q: Hebrews 13:7 and 17** speak about the influence and authority of spiritual leadership.What biblical principles should elders take into account as they exercise their God-given authority? How far does the authority of the leader extend?

Answer here

**Q:** What does it mean to keep watch over a person’s soul? How is this done effectively? What are some of the most crucial aspects of this activity?

Answer here

**Q:** Elders will have to give an account of their shepherding **(Ezekiel 3:18-19; James 3:1)**. They will have to answer to God for what they did or did not do in the lives of the local church. How should the reality of this future judgment affect elders? What are the practical implications of this eschatological reality for leaders?

Answer here

**Q:** What *advantage* does a congregation have when its leaders do their work with joy? What *disadvantage* do they have when their leaders shepherd with groaning?

Answer here

**Q**: By way of application and in light of this chapter, what should you do if you are going to pursue the office of elder? Be specific.

Answer here