

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

Volume 7

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Number 2

Elders Appointed

by John Isaac Edwards

Following a 4-sermon series concerning elders, a period for names to be submitted and any Scriptural objections to be raised as to why the men selected should not be appointed, Sunday, February 4, **Richard Hall and J.P. Edwards** were appointed to the eldership of the church of Christ at Terre Haute.

1) **Bible Authority For Elders.** We must have Bible authority for all that we do. This need is as old as man himself (Gen. 2:16-17; ch. 3). The Lord’s people have always been governed by a “Thus saith the Lord” (Ex. 4:22). The need for authority is affirmed throughout the New Testament as well (Mt. 7:21-23; 13:41-42; 21:23-27; 29:18; Col. 3:17). Authority is established by direct statement or command, approved example, and necessary inference (Jn. 13:34-35; Acts 15:6-21). By approved, apostolic example and necessary inference, we learn that elders are to be appointed in every church in every city (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5). Thus, to not appoint qualified men to the office is to disregard the authority of Christ.

2) **Need For Elders.** The need for elders in the local

church is implied by the presence of elders in first-century churches of Christ (Acts 11:30; 15:6; 20:17; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; 5:17; Phil. 1:1). Acts 14:23 finds Barnabas and Paul ordaining elders in every church (Acts 14:23). Paul left Titus in Crete to ordain elders in every city (Titus 1:5). Christ gave some pastors (Eph. 4:11). Elders are needed to help the church grow (Eph. 4:11-15). The flock needs feeding (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Pet. 5:2). Overseers are needed (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:2). God’s heritage needs ensamples (1 Pet. 5:3). There are souls to be watched for (Heb. 13:17). Grievous wolves are on the prowl (Acts 20:29-31). Straying sheep need to be found and brought home (1 Pet. 5:2; Lk. 15:4-7). To be fully organized after the New Testament pattern, the church needs elders (Phil. 1:1).

3) **Qualifications Of Elders.** The work of elders requires qualified men. 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 are the two places where the qualifications are recorded. The abilities and qualities recorded are a “must” (1 Tim. 3:2, 7; Titus 1:7). There are positive qualifications: a man (1 Tim. 3:1), desire (1 Tim. 3:1), blameless (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus

1:6-7), husband of one wife (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6), vigilant (1 Tim. 3:2), sober (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8), of good behavior (1 Tim. 3:2), given to hospitality (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8), apt to teach (1 Tim. 3:2), patient (1 Tim. 3:3), ruleth well his own house (1 Tim. 3:4), having his children in subjection with all gravity (1 Tim. 3:4), having faithful children (Titus 1:6), a good report of them without (1 Tim. 3:7), a lover of good men (Titus 1:8), just (Titus 1:8), holy (Titus 1:8), temperate (Titus 1:8), holding fast the faithful word (Titus 1:9), and able to exhort and convince (Titus 1:9). As well, there are qualifications that are negative in nature: not given to wine (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7), no striker (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7), not greedy of filthy lucre (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7), not a brawler (1 Tim. 3:3), not covetous (1 Tim. 3:3), not a novice (1 Tim. 3:6), not selfwilled (Titus 1:7), and not soon angry (Titus 1:7). “Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things” (1 Tim. 3:11).

4) **Work Of Elders.** Since pastors are Christ-given (Eph. 4:8, 11), their work is directed by Christ, “...the chief Shepherd...” (1 Pet. 5:4). It relates to the growth of the

church (Eph. 4:8, 11-16), providing for the maturity, stability, and development of the body of Christ. Their work is limited: they are not lawgivers; "There is one lawgiver..." (Jas. 4:12). "Neither as being lords over God's heritage..." (1 Pet. 5:3). Their overseership is restricted to the local church (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:2). The work of elders is of grave importance, in that there are qualifications which must be possessed by the men and their wives (1 Tim. 3:1-7, 11; Titus 1:5-9), it pertains to "...the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28), souls are involved (Heb. 13:17; Mt. 16:26) and an account must be given (Heb. 13:17). The work

includes: heed taking (Acts 20:28), overseeing and feeding (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:2), soul watching (Heb. 13:17), ruling (1 Tim. 3:4-5; 5:17; Heb. 13:17) and ensample being (1 Pet. 5:3).

5) Responsibilities Of Members To Elders. As elders have duties to the church, there are responsibilities of members to elders. We are to know them (1 Th. 5:12), esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake (1 Th. 5:13), be at peace among ourselves (1 Th. 5:13), let elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor (1 Tim. 5:17-18), receive not an accusation against them (1 Tim. 5:19-20), obey and submit unto them (Heb. 13:17), and call for them (Jas. 5:14-18). Why?

Because the Lord said so. They are over us in the Lord. For their work's sake. They watch for our souls. That they may do it with joy, and not with grief. It is profitable for us.

We are glad and grateful for the desire of Richard Hall and J.P. Edwards and their willingness to serve. We pray for them to "Be strong and of a good courage..." (Josh. 1:6) and that God will be with them and bless them in every way as they lead the local church in accordance with the way, the will and the word of Christ. May God help us as members to be what we ought and to hold up their hands so as to not be a grief to them or to our Lord in any way.

2018 Gospel Meetings

Two gospel meetings are planned for the local church this year, if the Lord will:

April 22-27

September 16-21

We encourage you to mark these dates on your calendar and make plans to be present every service!

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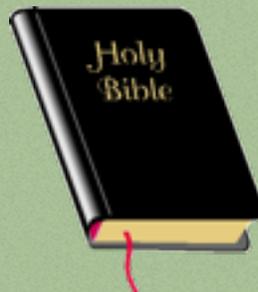
Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

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