

Ordained Things

John Isaac Edwards

The word “ordained” occurs 43 times in its various forms (*ordain, ordained, ordaineth*) in the King James Version. To ordain is to set or appoint. Take a look at some ordained things of the Bible.

The Apostles. The word “apostle” simply means one sent. The apostles of Christ were men chosen, appointed, and sent out by Christ to preach the gospel. Mark 3:14 records, “And he *ordained* twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach.” One of the qualifications of an apostle, as stated in Acts 1:22: “Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be *ordained* to be a witness with us of his resurrection.” There are no living apostles today for there are no witnesses of the resurrection alive today!

Christ. Peter preached concerning Christ, “...it is he which was *ordained* of God to be the judge of quick and dead” (Acts 10:42). Paul proclaimed to the Athenians that God “hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath *ordained*; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:31). It’s no wonder then the Scriptures talk about appearing before “the judgment seat of Christ” (Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10). Christ is “the righteous judge” (2 Timothy 4:8) as His

“judgment is just” (John 5:30). His word will be the standard of judgment (John 12:48). Are you ready for that day to come?

Elders. On Paul and Barnabas’ first preaching trip, churches were established and elders appointed. Acts 14:23 reports, “And when they had *ordained* them elders in every church...” Paul left Titus in Crete, “...that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and *ordain* elders in every city, as I had appointed thee” (Titus 1:5). God’s plan calls for elders in every church in every city. 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 reveal the qualifications by which these men are ordained. A church without elders is a church that is lacking. Too many churches are without elders today, with little to nothing being said or done to appoint such, and this is sad! There’s a real need for good, sound teaching on the qualifications and work of elders.

The Powers That Be. Paul wrote the saints at Rome, “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are *ordained* of God” (Romans 13:1). Civil government is a God-appointed arrangement. “Wherefore ye must needs be subject...” and “For this cause pay ye tribute also...” (Romans 13:5-6). Peter penned, “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of

evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well” (1 Peter 2:13-14). The powers that be need our prayers, “...that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty” (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

Support of Preachers. A reading of 1 Corinthians 9 shows the church has responsibility to support gospel preachers. The church at Corinth was informed, “Even so hath the Lord *ordained* that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:14). Do you know of any churches not supporting those who labor among them in preaching the gospel? Does he not have power to eat and drink, to lead about a wife, and to forbear working? Does a soldier go to battle at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard, and does not eat of its fruit? Who feeds a flock, and does not eat of the milk of the flock? Take the muzzle off the ox and let the one who plows plow in hope! If he has sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if he reaps your carnal things? It ought to be the aim of every church to fully support the local preacher, and make sacrifice to support men in other fields to the extent of their ability as did the church at Philippi (Philippians 4:15-16). It’s “wrong” for a church not to support the preacher and for a preacher not to take support from the church (2 Corinthians 12:13).

Walking in Good Works. The life of a Christian is described as a walk. Ephesians 2:10 says, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before *ordained* that we should walk in them.” Good works is the responsibility of every Christian. Remember Dorcas? “...this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did” (Acts 9:36). We are to be “...rich in good works...” (1 Timothy 6:18), “...zealous of good works” (Titus 2:14), and “...careful to maintain good works” (Titus 3:8). Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

Preachers. Paul said, “Whereunto I am *ordained* a preacher...” (1 Timothy 2:7). Paul charged Timothy, “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2). “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:2). An ordained preacher is one who accepts the responsibility to preach the word and teach others.

May we have appreciation and respect for what God has ordained.

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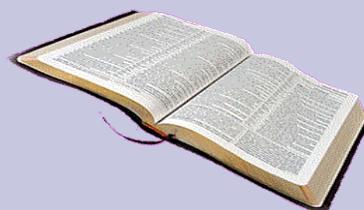
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Is Our
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