

# LEADERSHIP IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

## Morning Message Two

### The New Testament Leadership

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:36; 5:31; Rev. 1:5; Eph. 1:22; Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 11:3; Heb. 13:24; Rom. 12:8; 1 Tim. 5:17; 3:2; 1 Pet. 5:2-3; 1 Thes. 5:12; Heb. 13:17; Gal. 2:7; Rom. 11:13; 1 Cor. 16:12; 1 Tim. 1:3-4; 2 John 9-11; 2 Cor. 13:10; 1 Cor. 4:17b-21; 7:17b; 16:1; 11:2; 2 Thes. 3:6, 9, 12, 14; 1 Cor. 1:10; 5:11-13; 11:34b; 2 Cor. 10:6; Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; 1 Tim. 5:19-20; Exo. 28:29-30; Num. 27:15-23; 1 Sam. 3:1, 19-21; Acts 15:6, 23, 28; 2:42; 13:1

#### I. The headship of Christ:

- A. Christ has been made Lord and Christ by God—Acts 2:36.
- B. Christ has been exalted as the Leader over all the rulers—Acts 5:31.
- C. Christ has been made the Ruler of the kings of the earth—Rev. 1:5.
- D. Christ has been appointed to be the Head over all things to the church—Eph. 1:22.
- E. Christ is the Head of the church—Col. 1:18.
- F. Christ is the Head of every man under the headship of God—1 Cor. 11:3.

#### II. The leadership in the church life:

- A. The elders take the lead diligently in the church life—Heb. 13:24; Rom. 12:8.
- B. The elders labor in teaching the saints—1 Tim. 5:17b; 3:2.
- C. The elders shepherd the church as the flock of God, overseeing it according to God, and becoming patterns of the flock, not lording it over the flock—1 Pet. 5:2-3.
- D. The elders are to be regarded, obeyed, and honored by the saints—1 Thes. 5:12; Heb. 13:17; 1 Tim. 5:17a.

#### III. The leadership in the ministry:

- A. Peter took the lead in the New Testament ministry among the Jews—Gal. 2:7b.
- B. Paul took the lead in the New Testament ministry among the Gentiles—Gal. 2:7a; Rom. 11:13.
- C. The leadership in the New Testament ministry is in the New Testament teaching more than in the leading ones of the New Testament ministry:
  - 1. The leading ones were not strict in directing the move of their co-workers—1 Cor. 16:12.
  - 2. The leading ones were strict in the teaching of the New Testament—1 Tim. 1:3-4; 2 John 9-11.
- D. God's delegated authority in the New Testament ministry is in the leading ones:
  - 1. For building up and not for overthrowing—2 Cor. 13:10.
  - 2. In their teaching—1 Cor. 4:17b-21; 7:17b; 16:1; 11:2; 2 Thes. 3:6, 10, 12, 14.
  - 3. In their dealing with the problems and affairs of the churches—1 Cor. 1:10; 5:11-13; 11:34b.
  - 4. In their punishing of the saints' disobedience—2 Cor. 10:6.

5. In their appointing of and dealing with the elders—Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; 1 Tim. 5:19-20.

#### **IV. God's government in the administration of the churches:**

- A. In God's government there is not autocracy or democracy, but theocracy.
- B. Among the people of Israel in the Old Testament there was the theocratic government:
  1. Through the priesthood with the Urim and the Thummim—Exo. 28:29-30; Num. 27:15-23.
  2. Through the coordination of the prophets—1 Sam. 3:1, 19-21.
- C. In the churches in the New Testament there was the theocratic government:
  1. Through the Spirit who dwells in the spirits of the apostles and the elders, both of whom are the New Testament priests, with the revelation of the New Testament teaching—Acts 15:6, 23, 28; 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:12; 1 Tim. 3:2; 5:17.
  2. Through the coordination of the New Testament prophets—Acts 13:1.