

## **Times of Worship**

### **Sunday**

**10:00 a.m. (Bible Study) Classes Available**

**10:45 a.m. (Worship)**

**6:00 p.m. (Worship)**

### **Wednesday**

**7:00 p.m. (Bible Study) Classes Available**

### **3rd Tuesday of the Month**

**7:00 p.m. (Ladies Bible Study)**

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# **Burbank Road Church of Christ**



# **The Lamplight**

**May 8th 2011      Issue: 0018**

**Volume:002**

## **Elders and the Church**

I am reminded when I first started trying to find places to work with. It was a long process but the time in finding was very beneficial to my family and I. When talking with several congregations almost all to my memory did not have elders. I did not know the situation with each congregation but there was something said after talking to some that I was concerned about. It was said to me that we do not have elders but the men work together. Some did not want to have elders because the men worked together and got along. Is this what the Lord wanted in the church? Why then would Paul as we read appoint elders in every church they were with (**Acts 14:23**)?

I can almost be safe to say that there have been situations that have happened where there were not elders, and situations happened that were not resolved and made matters worse than before and sadly division happened. Then there is sometimes the dreaded two words that sometimes are not pleasant to say and that is "business meetings". I have been in my share of business meetings that I left wondering how sometimes brethren can act this way during these "meetings".

If elders are in the church many problems can be resolved quickly. Sometimes they may not be the way we want them to work out, however, the problem is fixed more often with elders. I am not saying that there hasn't been problems with elders in the church but again things can be addressed faster and more beneficial in most cases.

However with the work of elders there are specific qualifications for one to be an elder. Not everyone can be elder and, not everyone is qualified. The Bible has given us an understanding especially through the writings of Paul on who can be an elder and what it takes for one to be an elder.

First of all a desire must be shown for one to be an elder. How can one be put in a position that one doesn't desire. Paul says that those that **desire** the position of elder they desire a good work. Sadly sometimes people install elders and one really does not have the desire. How can one fully work towards God and oversee the church in this position if they do not want to be part of this work in this position?

The qualifications of an elder can be found in **I Timothy 3:1-7** and **Titus 1:5-9**. First of all again one must desire the work. The marriage situation of an elder is stated as a man of one wife. If a man is married and the spouse passes away and then remarries, is he not the man of one wife? If a man is married and is scripturally divorced and remarried is this not man of one wife? The answer to both is yes. When a man is divorced un-

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THOSE THAT ARE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS**

**Harold Reynolds two Nieces**

**Beth Morehouse**

**Justina Sanders**

**Amber Marshall**

**Shirley Dunn's Daughter**

**Jason Workman**

**Esther Adams**

**Wilbur Bland Multiple Health Issues**

**Rhonda Hess**

**Shannon (Judy's Step Granddaughter) and Children**

**Marlene McCullough**

**Vera Snow**

**Golda Cline**

**Bob Buckland**

**Bill Weigle**

**Justina Sanders Grandmother**

### **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Jason Workman is in military**

**Please pray for Harold's Nieces one has been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease and the other has a spot on her neck that is a concern**

**Marlene McCullough is continuing to recover**

**Justina's Grandmother has a fractured spine and is rehabbing**

**Remember our expecting mother's Amber , Beth Morehouse, and Justina**

**John and Rose Smetzer is needing our continued prayers**

**CD's available upon request**

**If you have someone who may like to receive a bulletin please write down information and give it to Daniel**

# **ORDER OF SERVICES**

## **MORNING SERVICES**

**Announcements: Eldred Hess**

**Song Leader: Josh Marshall**

**Opening Prayer: Jim Cline**

**Heading Lord's Table: Harold Reynolds**

**Speaker: Daniel Sanders**

**Closing Prayer: Daniel Sanders**

## **EVENING SERVICES**

**Song Leader: Eldred Hess**

**Opening Prayer: Daniel Sanders**

**Lord's Table: Harold Reynolds**

**Speaker: Daniel Sanders**

**Closing Prayer: Tony Scarpino**

## **WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES**

**Announcements: Eldred Hess**

**Song Leader: Josh Marshall**

**Opening Prayer: Tony Scarpino**

**Invitation: Daniel Sanders**

**Closing Prayer: Jim Cline**

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO COME TO SERVICES AND YOU  
HAVE SOMETHING TO DO PLEASE LET SOMEONE KNOW!**

scriptural they are not the husband of one wife.

Also notice the next part they are to have children that are faithful in the home. Parents have a responsibility to their children (**Ephesians 6:1-4**) while in the home especially. We are to train them in the home to know God, believe in God, and to know God's will! However, in such situations children when leaving the home and to be joined to their spouse they are no longer under direct rule of their parents (**Genesis 2:24**). Man and woman will be joined to make their own home together. However, this does not stop them from the responsibility to encourage if they do fall away from God. Each case should be examined carefully with great attention. However if children pass away this is another and different case because situations happen beyond one's control if they are faithful to God. Again each situation and person needs to be examined in every way.

A man who desires to be an elder must also have a desire to obey God's will and remain faithful each day of our life. One must put God's will first in their life. One must oversee the work with Christ being the one with all authority (**Matthew 28:18**). It is the Lord's church that must be carried out through the direction of Christ.

One that is qualified to be an elder is also one that is well recognized also in the community as good moral and faithful individual (**I Timothy 3:7**). Meaning, one is recognized by others as being a Christian, one that desires and others know to the desire is to serve God through being a light (**Matthew 5:14-16**).

The work of elders is not to manage the church like ones' own personal business. It again is not the elders church. Elders are to oversee the work. Sadly we fail to truly understand the work of elders and again place some in a position that should not.

The work of elders is to make sure God's will is proclaimed and to rebuke false teachings and sin in the church (**Titus 1:10-16**). Those that are disobedient to God are to be stopped. Those that are dishonest should be rebuked. However it is all done with love to help correct one to turn to or back to God.

Let us examine this work. If there are qualified individuals, then we must not turn away from it we must encourage those to pursue this work. It is a joyous and beneficial work that is needed in the kingdom of God. If we decide that a church does not need elders even if there are those that are qualified we are not living up to the fullest potential we can be in working in the Lord's church and this community.

**Daniel Sanders**

**Sunday Morning Sermon Note Taking**  
**Straightening out our Priorities**

**Sunday Evening Sermon Note Taking**  
**The Work of Elders**