



Thank you to the Jobs Family for hosting the Family/Youth Devo yesterday!

- The November Jr./Sr. High Devotional and the Family Youth Devotional will be combined on Sunday, November 12 following evening services.
- A reminder of the Fall Youth Retreat hosted by University church of Christ at Peach Valley, November 10-12, grades 6-12.

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, November 5 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "God's Enduring Word."

The Bible is an ancient book, but its message is relevant and authoritative today. Whatever was written in ancient time was written for our learning. In this message, we're going to look at the authority of God's Word.

SUNDAYS

- Bible Classes9:00 AM
- Morning Worship10:00 AM
- Evening Worship 5:00 PM

Tuesdays (September through May)

- Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM
- Ladies' Bible Study..... 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAYS

- Midweek Bible Study 7:00 PM

ELDERS

- Will Cleveland
- Tom Pitchford

EVANGELIST

Ronnie Scherffius

SUPPORTED WORKS

- James and Emily Cammock
Hamilton, New Zealand
- John Moore
Bible Land Passages
- Mani Pagidipalli, M.D.
India
- Cecil Shaw
Ocho Rios, Jamaica
- Student Support
Southwest School of Bible Studies

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OCTOBER 29, 2017

"DO THE ELDERS RULE BY EXAMPLE ONLY?"

by Ronnie Scherffius

Now that the MidTown Church of Christ has an eldership (how wonderful it is to be able to say that!) a question may arise, "How much authority does the eldership have?" Let it first be pointed out, that couched within this question is a truth that must be stressed—the authority lies within the *eldership* NOT the elder! Each elder within the eldership is under the oversight of that eldership as a whole. No one man within the eldership has authority over the other elders and/or congregation.

That being said, there are is a false view of elders held by many, even in the Lord's church today, that elders have authority in *example only*.

The text used to teach this false doctrine is a statement of the apostle Peter in his address to elders found in 1 Peter 5:3, which states: "Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but *being examples* to the flock." The error from this verse would go something like this, "Since Peter admonished the elders to be exam-

ples to the flock, the only authority the eldership has regarding the flock is through their example." Friends, nothing could be further from the truth! Let's note a few passages of Scripture that demonstrate the fact that the elders have a position of authority over the local congregation and that the local congregation has the responsibility to submit to their authority.

Acts 20:28

Consider first Paul's statement as recorded by Luke: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, *over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers*, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). The Greek word translated *overseer* [ἐπίσκοπος; episkopos] in this passage is translated *bishop* in other passages (cf. Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:1; Titus 1:7) and is defined by Thayer as "a man charged with the duty of seeing that things to be done by others are done rightly, any curator, guardian, or

superintendent” (THAYER’S GREEK-ENGLISH LEXICON OF THE NEW TESTAMENT). Note that in speaking to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17), Paul refers to them as overseers, which clearly indicates one (or in this case a group of men) charged with a duty of superintending! A superintendent is defined by Webster as “one who has the oversight and charge of some place, institution, or organization, affairs, etc., with the power of direction” (WEBSTER’S DICTIONARY, 1913).

Question: Do the terms oversight, charge, duty, superintend, and power imply exemplary authority or ruling authority? The very nature of these terms demand that the authority of the eldership goes beyond that of being by example only!

As a side note on the term overseer/bishop, an in-depth study of the Greek terms translated elders (cf. Acts 20:17) and overseers (Acts 20:28) emphasizes three points of significance: 1) the elders without exception are called overseers/bishops—they are elders in status (not in virtue of their age but of their position) and they are overseers in their responsibility; 2) this responsibility is described in terms of shepherding; 3) there are several overseers/bishops in the one congregation, none of which takes precedence over the other (BEYER, THEOLOGICAL DICTIONARY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, Vol. 2, p. 616).

A second passage that gives great weight to establishing the truth that the authority of the eldership is more than mere example of life is found in this qualifications of elders: “One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)” (1 Tim. 3:4-5). The point being made here is abundantly clear—a man who cannot rule his own house is not fit to

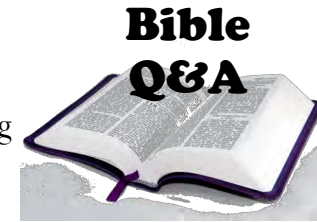
serve in the office of a bishop/overseer (1 Tim. 3:1) because his work as a bishop/overseer in “taking care of the church of God” involves ruling! Is there anyone who would suggest that the only rule a father has in his home is by example? Is there truly anyone who believes that a father has no right to instruct or prohibit his children? To ask the question is to answer it!

It is true that some of the modern translations, rather than rule, translate the Greek word manage, but such a translation changes nothing, for one who manages must have authority in order to manage. However, the fact that the elders are to rule does not mean that they are to be (or can be with divine approval) tyrants, but rather they are to rule according to the biblical pattern of ruling. Holding to the same illustration note that Paul also admonished fathers to, “provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4). Fathers are not to rule their homes so as to cause anger or wrath, but in such a way that their children are trained in the right ways and directed into the right paths. Such training and direction involves instruction, rebuke, and even at times discipline. The rule of the elders is not an overbearing or dictatorial rule, but rather a loving, compassionate, and caring rule as Christ would have them to rule over His flock.

Records You Helped Make	
For the Week of	
OCTOBER 22, 2017	
Attendance	
Sunday Bible Class.....	137
Sunday Morning Assembly.....	161
Sunday Evening Assembly.....	103
Wednesday Attendance.....	101
Offering: \$4,492	

News & ACTIVITIES


Today!
Ronnie will answer the following questions during evening service:



1. What is the meaning of Daniel 9:20-27? (particularly v 24-27)
2. Are there different “levels” or “positions” in heaven?
3. Why did the Lord utterly destroy people/nations in the Old Testament (men, women, children, animals, etc.) and not give them an opportunity to repent?

Trunk or Treat

MidTown’s Annual Trunk or Treat will follow evening service today. While adults prepare their vehicles, the children have pizza and then a brief devotional. Afterward, the children may wear costumes and visit the decorated cars to collect small toys or candy.



Keep in PRAYER



MidTown Members:

Buster Bailey
Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Jan Farris
Faye Henderson

Dee Gilpatrick
Betty Key
Kathy Laws
Sandy Malone
Ann Pantel
Glenodine Pitts
Paul Purswell
Mickey Tisue
Clark Withers

& Friends Family:

Victor Benitez,
brother of Virginia Escojido
Cheryl Dobbs,
friend of Pam Clifton
Jennifer Dobbs,
friend of Pam Clifton
Bert Haynes,
father of Pam Stryker
Kim Neel-Farthing,
daughter of Joyce
Gillette Ferguson,
brother in Vernal, Utah
June Green,
mother of Janice FitzSimmons
Rose Leske,
sister-in-law of Sandra Marie
Liz Lopez,
friend of Nina Siegel

Janell Marshall
family of Karon Barton
Fred Porter,
brother-in-law of Della Rampley
Sarah Randle,
mother of Steve
Harish Reddy,
brother-in-law of Archana Verma
Sammy Snead,
brother-in-law of Ronnie Scherffius
Cynthia Sneeringer,
mother of Angela
Prem Verma,
father-in-law of Archana
Kennedy Young, Sr.,
uncle of Naomi Flonnory