

**The Church – Volume 2:  
True And False**  
by Derek Prince

— Study Note Outline —  
TC2

*Six Tape Series*

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**Further Teaching On Elders  
5007**

**I. Work Of An Elder (1 Tim 5:17)**

**A.** Ruling—three different Greek words are used:

1. “To stand in front”—1 Thess. 5:12–13; 1 Tim. 3:4–5; 5:17
2. “To lead,” like an oriental shepherd—Heb. 13:7, 17, 24
3. “To shepherd”—Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2. Elsewhere in KJV this word is translated “to rule”—Matt. 2:6; Rev. 2:27; 12:5, 19:15.

**B.** Teaching

1. Titus 1:9—An elder receives doctrinal teaching, then transmits it to others (compare 2 Tim. 2:2).
2. Not primarily as a “pulpit personality,” but by personal counseling and group teaching.

**II. Ministry Of A Shepherd**

**A.** John 10:11–16, 27—Jesus is the *pattern shepherd*. Main aspects:

1. To lay down his life
2. To know his sheep individually
3. To be personally “knowable”
4. To speak and lead

**B.** Psalm 23:1–3

1. To provide water and pasture
2. To protect, lead and control

**C.** Ezekiel 34:1–4

1. To feed the flock
2. To strengthen the diseased
3. To heal the sick
4. To bind up the broken
5. To bring again that which is driven away

- 6. To seek the lost (compare James 5:14–15)
- D. Isaiah 56:9–10—Watchman (shepherds) that do not give warning of the approach of “wolves” are “dumb dogs” (compare Matt. 7:15).
- E. Ezekiel 33:1–9—A watchman is accountable for his message (compare Acts 20:20–21, 26–27).
- F. Genesis 31:38–40—The testimony of Jacob as *shepherd* (compare Heb. 13:17).

### III. Qualifications Of An Elder (Shepherd)

- A. John 21:15–17
  - 1. Primary: Unreserved devotion to Christ.
  - 2. Three aspects
    - a. Feed My lambs
    - b. Shepherd My sheep
    - c. Feed My sheep
- B. 1 Tim 3:1–7; Titus 1:5–9
  - 1. *Personal character*: Blameless, vigilant, patient, self-controlled, righteous, holy, a lover of good. *Not* self-willed, covetous, greedy, quick-tempered, violent, or a drunkard.
  - 2. Family situation:
    - a. Husband of one wife (*not* wife of one husband)
    - b. Home and children under discipline
    - c. Able and willing to show hospitality
    - d. Respected in the community
  - 3. *Spiritual ability*: Well-grounded in doctrine and able to teach others. *Not* a new convert.

### IV. Appointment Of Elders

- A. Acts 14:23—Where a new local church is established, elders are normally appointed by those who establish the church (i.e. apostles).
- B. Titus 1:5—More generally, this falls within the apostolic ministry of setting and maintaining local churches in order.
- C. Acts 20:28—More fully, elders are appointed (set) by Christ through the Holy Spirit, using human instruments.
- D. 1 Corinthians 12:28—In the last resort, it is God who sets all the members in their place.
- E. 1 Tim. 3:1–7; Titus 1:6–9—In all cases to qualify for appointment as an elder a man must meet the requirements of Scripture.
- F. Thus appointing elders combines two requirements:
  - 1. To recognize the men whom the Holy Spirit has been preparing for this ministry.
  - 2. To know and apply the standards of Scripture.
- G. Normally an elder can only come into the full exercise of his ministry when he is officially recognized within the local church.
- H. *Authority* is made effective by *recognition*.

### V. Remuneration Of Elders

- A. 1 Timothy 5:17–18—“Honor” here includes financial and material recognition (compare Acts 28:10; Matt. 15:5–6). This is in proportion to *need* and *amount of time* devoted to the ministry.

- B. 1 Cor. 9:7–14—A general principle: “they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.” Applied also to one who “feeds (shepherds) a flock.”

## VI. Sheep Require A Shepherd

- A. Ezekiel 34:5–8; Matt. 9:36, 26:31—Sheep without a shepherd: Scattered, fainting, a prey to wild beasts. The New Testament imposes upon every believer this obligation: either be a shepherd or have one.
- B. Acts 11:26—“Christians” are “disciples.” Without *discipline* there is no *discipleship*. It requires God’s grace both to rule and to be ruled.

## Daily Life Of The Local Church

– Part 1 –

5008

### I. Three Initiatory Experiences

- A. Acts 2:37–38—Repentance; baptism in water; baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- B. 1 Cor. 10:1–2, 6, 11—The Old Testament pattern.
1. Deliverance through the blood of the lamb, followed by a double baptism:
  2. Baptism in the cloud (= the Holy Spirit)
  3. Baptism in the sea (= water)

### II. Four Continuing Activities (Acts 2:42)

- A. Teaching by the apostles
1. Essential to conserve the results of the baptism in the Holy Spirit (compare Eph. 6:17–18)
  2. Matt. 4:4, 7, 10—Jesus is our pattern for taking and using the sword of the Spirit.
  3. Romans 6:17—Doctrine is the *form (mold)* that shapes the lives of new converts aright.
  4. Is. 5:13; Hos. 4:6—Two Old Testament pictures of God’s people without proper teaching.
    - a. To reject knowledge disqualifies us for “priesthood ministry” (compare Mal. 2:7).
    - b. It also brings judgment on our children.
- B. Fellowship
1. 1 Cor. 1:9—Fellowship is the *end purpose* of the gospel (compare 1 John 1:3).
  2. 1 John 1:7—Fellowship is the place of *light*, searching and testing us. To stay in the light, we must stay in fellowship.
  3. Acts 2:46; 5:42—Two main places for fellowship
    - a. Large scale: the temple, usually Solomon’s porch (see Acts 3:11; 5:12).
    - b. Small scale, their homes. The first Christians continued for a time to attend the institutional place of worship: But
      - (1) They did not compromise their testimony.
      - (2) They did not depend upon the institution for their personal spiritual life.
  4. Acts 2:44–45; 4:34–35—Their fellowship was expressed in sharing together on every level, spiritual and material.
  5. John 3:6—Fellowship is the place of *spiritual birth*.
  6. Acts 1:14; 2:1—The church was born out of fellowship.

7. Acts 13:1–4—The church’s first “missionary” outreach was born out of fellowship.
    - a. Projects and programs are *secondary*.
    - b. Fellowship is *primary*.
- C. Eating together
1. “Breaking bread” indicates normal eating together. This is the basic form of fellowship. By oriental custom, sharing food together committed partakers to a covenant of loyalty (compare Ps. 41:9). See also Acts 2:46–47; 20:7.
  2. 1 Cor. 11:20–21—Apparently a “love feast” or “pot luck supper” (distinct from taking the Lord’s Supper).

**Daily Life Of The Local Church**  
 – Part 2 –  
 5009

**II. Four Continuing Activities (cont’d.)**

- C. Eating together (cont’d.)
1. “Breaking bread” indicates normal eating together. This is the basic form of fellowship. By oriental custom, sharing food together committed partakers to a covenant of loyalty (compare Ps. 41:9). See also Acts 2:46–47; 20:7.
  2. 1 Cor. 11:20–21—Apparently a “love feast” or “pot luck supper” (distinct from taking the Lord’s Supper).
- D. Prayer
1. 1 Tim. 2:1—Prayer is the primary ministry of a local church.
  2. 1 Tim. 3:15; Is. 56:7—The church is “God’s house,” and is therefore a house of prayer for all peoples.
  3. 1 Tim. 2:1–4—The first specific topic for prayer: *All in authority*.
  4. Matt. 18:19–20—The basic requirement for effective praying together is *agreement (harmony)*. This comes out of *fellowship*.

**III. Relationship Between “House” Church And “City” Church**

- A. The “church in the house” occurs four times in the New Testament: Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philemon 2.
1. Probably this did not indicate “meetings” at set times on set days, but rather a group of believers living under one roof in ordered fellowship.
  2. This is the “cell” out of which the complete “body” of the local church is built up (see Matt. 18:15–20).
  3. But the body is more than scattered individual cells, and the local church is more than a number of “house churches.”
- B. 1 Cor. 14:23—There are times when “the whole (local) church comes together in one place.” The following are some of the main purposes for this:
1. 1 Cor. 14:26—To edify each other through gifts and ministries
  2. 1 Cor. 11:23–33—To eat the Lord’s Supper together
  3. Acts 21:20–22—To be edified by a visiting “mobile” ministry (compare Acts 20:7)
  4. Acts 14:27–28—To hear reports of “mobile” ministries returning to the local church which sent them out.

5. Col. 4:16; 1 Thess. 5:27—To hear letters from “mobile” ministers read out (compare Acts 15:30; Rev. 2 and 3).
  6. Acts 15:22–29—To settle issues of doctrine and practice affecting all believers.
  7. 1 Cor. 5:1–5—To maintain discipline and proper standards of behavior among believers (compare 1 Cor. 6:1–4).
  8. Matt. 18:17—To settle disputes between believers (compare 1 Cor. 6:1–4).
- C. *Note:* For issues of doctrine, discipline, morality, or disputes between believers, the final court of appeal is the *whole local church*. Failure to submit to the local church disqualifies a person for fellowship. Unless he repents, he is no longer to be treated as a believer.

#### IV. Meeting Place For The Whole Church

- A. Apparently anything suitable that was available: e.g. the temple (Acts 2:46; 5:42); a school (Acts 19:9); an upper chamber (Acts 20:8).
- B. Normally, the Jews built synagogues, and the heathen built temples. The early Christians deliberately departed from these traditions.
- C. There is no record of their ever building any special edifice for their meetings.

#### V. Fellowship Of Local Leaders

- A. If the small groups are to come together from time to time in fellowship as one large group, it is essential that the leaders of these small groups maintain regular fellowship among themselves.
- B. See Acts 11:1–2; 13:1–2; 15:2, 6; 20:17; 21:18.

### Bride Or Harlot? 5010

#### I. Introduction

- A. Rev. 17:1–5; 19:7–8; 2:19—Within “Christendom” (or the religious world), as this age closes, there will be only two significant groups: the *bride* and the *harlot*.
- B. Gen. 4:3–8—Human history has seen only these two forms of religion: *Abel* = Grace received by faith; *Cain* = Works without grace

<u>Abel’s religion</u>	<u>Cain’s religion</u>
Received divine revelation (Heb. 11:14; Rom. 10:17)	Rejected divine revelation
Acknowledged the need of substitutionary sacrifice	Denied the need of substitutionary sacrifice
Offered propitiation for the curse on the earth	Offered the products of earth that were cursed (Gen. 3:17)
Received supernatural attestation from God (Gen. 4:4; Heb. 11:4)	Was refused supernatural attestation from God (Gen 4:5)
Produced a <i>martyr</i>	Produced a <i>murderer</i>
Will bring forth the <i>bride</i>	Will bring forth the <i>harlot</i>

- C. 2 Cor. 11:2—At conversion believers are *espoused* to Christ (compare Matt. 1:18–20).
- D. Rev. 19:7–8—The marriage will take place at Christ’s return.
- E. 2 Cor. 11:3–4, 13:15, 1 Tim. 4:1; Matt. 24:11–13—In the interval between espousal and marriage, Satan by false teachers and deceiving spirits will seek to *seduce* believers from their loyalty to Christ. Those who remain true to Christ will form the *bride*. Those who are seduced will form the *harlot*.
- F. John 14:3; 1 Thess. 4:16–17—True believers are waiting for the return of the true Christ, being prepared by the Holy Spirit (see Rev. 22:17).
- G. 1 John 2:18–22; 4:1–6—The others are being prepared by the “spirit of antichrist” for the advent of “antichrist.” Distinguish:
  1. The spirit of antichrist
  2. Many antichrists (plural)
  3. Antichrist (singular)
- H. Marks of the spirit of antichrist:
  1. Begins in association with true believers (2:19)
  2. Denies that Jesus is the Messiah (2:22)
  3. Denies the persons of the Father and the Son, but not the existence of God (2:22)
  4. Denies that Jesus the Messiah *has come in the flesh* (4:2–3)

*Note:* To deny the virgin birth is to deny that Jesus is the Messiah.

## II. Picture Of The True Church

- A. Eph. 5:23–24—Totally submitted to Christ in all things.
- B. Eph. 5:26–27—Sanctified and cleansed by obeying the word of God to fervent mutual love (compare 1 Pet. 1:22; 1 John 5:6).
- C. Rev. 19:8—Displaying the righteousness of Christ received by faith, worked out in every action (compare Phil. 2:12–13).
- D. 1 Cor. 1:7—Adorned with the grace/gifts of the Holy Spirit (compare Is. 61:10).
- E. Gen. 24:10, 22, 30, 47, 53—Rebecca a type of the bride.
- F. Heb. 9:28—Continually looking for the bridegroom (compare Tit. 2:11–13).

## False Church And False Christ

### – Part 1 –

5011

## I. Picture Of The False Church

- A. Rev. 17:1, 15—Deceiving and dominating multitudes of people.
- B. Rev. 17:2, 4; 18:3—By false teaching leading rulers and nations into spiritual adultery (idolatry).
- C. Rev. 17:4; 18:3; 11–13, 16—Luxury, splendor, ceremony, wealth. Everything *sensual* and *soulish*, but nothing *spiritual*. Purple and scarlet, but *no blue*. Compare:
  1. Ex. 28:8—Three colors in the garment of the high priest typify the nature of Christ: Blue = divine, heavenly; scarlet = human, earthly; purple = divine and human combined.
  2. The harlot has nothing divine or heavenly.

- D. Rev. 17:5—The harlot is the spiritual counterpart of Old Testament Babylon. Note especially:
  - 1. Is. 47:9, 12–13—Sorceries, enchantments, astrology, horoscopes (compare Rev. 18:23).
  - 2. Jer. 50:2, 38—Idols and images.
- E. Rev. 17:18—The harlot is geographically associated with the *city of Rome* (compare v. 9).
- F. Rev. 18:20, 24—The culmination of Cain’s religion: persecutor and murderer of all true saints of God.
- G. Rev. 18:8–10—Her judgment and destruction will be sudden, complete and permanent—brought about by antichrist (compare Rev. 17:16–17).
- H. Rev. 18:4—God’s people are warned to come out of her.

## II. Picture Of The False Christ

- A. Various different titles (2 Thess. 2:31)
  - 1. *The man of sin* (lawlessness)
  - 2. *The son of perdition* (compare John 17:12)
  - 3. *Antichrist*: (1 John 2:18) “anti” denotes
    - a. “Against”
    - b. “In place of”
    - c. The spirit of antichrist will:
      - (1) *Displace* the true Christ
      - (2) *Replace* him by the false Christ
  - 4. *The (wild) beast* (Rev. 13:1–4)
- B. Luke 4:5–8—Satan is looking for a man through whom he can control all nations and receive their worship. The true Christ refused to submit to him, but the false Christ will do this.
- C. 2 Thess. 2:3—A falling away from the faith within the professing church will open the way for the emergence of antichrist.

## False Church And False Christ

– Part 2 –

5012

## II. Picture Of The False Christ (cont’d.)

- D. Rev. 13:1; 17:3—The false Christ will ride to power upon a political federation (a beast with seven heads and ten horns).
- E. Rev. 17:16–17; Dan 7:7–8, 24–25—Antichrist will arise out of the same political federation, using the false church. Then antichrist and his supporters will turn against the false church and destroy her.
- F. 2 Thess. 2:9–10—He will use supernatural Satanic power (compare Dan. 8:23–24).
- G. Ezek. 28:3—The “prince of Tyrus” with supernatural wisdom is a prophetic preview of antichrist.
- H. Ezek. 28:12–18—Behind the “prince” is the “king” (Satan himself).
- I. Rev. 13:3, 12, 14—Antichrist will go through some kind of “resurrection.”

- J. Rev. 13:4—He will command such political, military and economic power that no one will be able to resist him.
- K. Rev. 13:7—He will dominate all nations (compare Dan. 7:23).
- L. Rev. 13:5–6—He will make tremendous blasphemous claims, but will be permitted to continue in this only for 42 months = 3½ years. Compare Dan. 7:25:
  - 1. A time + (two) times + half a time = 3½ times (years)
  - 2. 3½ years = 3½ x 12 = 42 months = 42 x 30 = 1260 days (compare Rev. 12:6)
  - 3. 3½ x 2 = 7 years = one “week” (of years): i.e. the 70th “week” of Dan. 9:25–27
- M. 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:3–4, 8—Antichrist will claim to be God and will receive worship. Satan will receive worship through him.
- N. Ezek. 28:2—In this also the “prince of Tyrus” is a preview of antichrist.
- O. 2 Thess. 2:10–12; Rev. 13:8—Antichrist will deceive all except true believers in Christ. This is a judgment of God upon those who persistently and stubbornly reject the truth: to hand them over to the deceptions of Satan. Compare the following:
  - 1. 1 Sam. 16:14—King Saul
  - 2. 1 Kings 22:20–23—King Ahab
  - 3. Is. 29:10—The nation of Israel (compare Rom. 11:7–8)
- P. Rev. 13:7—Antichrist will ferociously persecute all true saints of God (compare Dan. 7:21).
- Q. Rev. 13:18—The letters of his name will add up to 666. In Greek, the letters of “Jesus” add up to 888, as follows:

I	=	10
E	=	8
S	=	200
O	=	70
U	=	400
S	=	<u>200</u>
TOTAL	=	888

- R. 2 Thess. 2:8—Antichrist will be destroyed by the true Christ, returning in glory (compare Is. 11:4, 30:27–28, 33; Rev. 19:19–21).

## II. Satan’s Counterfeit Of Christianity

- A. Rev. 13:2–4, 8, 11–15—The dragon as the Father; the beast as the Son; the false prophet as the Holy Spirit; the image of the beast as the church.
- B. 2 Thess. 2:6–7—The Holy Spirit within the true church will hold back the culmination of Satan’s evil purposes until the purposes of God’s grace have been fulfilled.
- C. Luke 21:34–36—All true believers must *watch and pray. Continually.*