Aspiring to be an Overseer

1st Timothy 3:1

(series #11)

I. The Titles for Elders Used in Scripture

A. They are called "bishops" or "overseers" - Philippians 1:1

B. They are called "elders" and "overseers" Titus 1:5,7

C. They are described as elders, overseers, pastors - Acts 20:17,28
   1. Elder refers to the spiritual maturity of the person
   2. Bishop or overseer refers to the office
   3. Pastor or shepherd refers to the ministry

II. The Prominence of Elders in the Book of Acts

A. They had the responsibility for finances 11:27-30

B. Their appointment was a priority in every church 14:21-23
   1. Paul didn't appoint men until they were ready
   2. Some can be ready in a short period of time
   3. There were elders (plural) in every church
   4. Their development was a priority in Paul's ministry

C. They made decisions about the life/doctrine of the church
   1. Acts 15:1-6
   2. I Timothy 5:17

III. The Function of Elders in Scripture

A. To Be Examples to the Flock
   1. Acts 20:28 "Take heed to yourselves..."
   2. I Timothy 4:16
   3. I Timothy 3 and Titus 1

B. To Shepherd (Feed and Lead) the Flock
   1. Acts 20:20 , 27
   2. John 21:15-17
   3. I Peter 5:1-4
   4. I Timothy 3:4-5
   5. Hebrews 13:17