

## Chapter 26 – The Church #5

*‘Theology is dying not because the academy has failed to devise adequate procedures for reconstructing it but because the Church has lost the capacity for it. And while some hail this loss as a step forward toward the hope of new evangelical vitality, it is in fact a sign of creeping death. The emptiness of evangelical faith without theology echoes the emptiness of modern life. Both have elected to cross over into a world where God has no place, in which reality has been rewritten, in which Christ has become redundant, his word irrelevant, and the church must find new reasons for existence.’ – David Wells, No Place for Truth or Whatever Happened to Evangelical Theology? (p.137)*

### 4<sup>th</sup> – GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH (Para 8-11) – 1 Timothy 3:15

(1<sup>st</sup>) CHURCH OFFICERS (Para 8) – *‘A local church, gathered and fully organized according to the mind of Christ, consists of officers and members. By Christ's appointment the officers to be chosen and set apart by the church as called and gathered, are **bishops (otherwise called elders) and deacons**. It is their special responsibility to arrange for the carrying out of what the Lord has ordained, and to use the powers entrusted to them for the execution of their duties; and such arrangements are to continue in the church until the world ends.’ – Acts 20:17,28... Phil 1:1.*

Only two continuing offices – Philippians 1:1... 1 Timothy 3:1-13

<1> **Elders** (pastors or bishops) – Acts 14:23... 20:17,28

<2> **Deacons** (servants of the church) – Acts 6:1-4... 1 Timothy 3:13

(2<sup>nd</sup>) APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS (Para 9) – *‘By Christ's appointment, any person who has been qualified and given the necessary gifts by the Holy Spirit for the work of bishop or elder in a church, must be chosen and called to that office by the common suffrage of the church itself. He must be solemnly set apart by fasting and prayer, with the laying on of the hands of the existing eldership, if there be such. Similarly, deacons are to be chosen by the common suffrage of the church, and set apart by prayer and the laying on of hands.’ – Acts 6:3,5,6... 14:23... 1 Tim 4:14*

<1> **Appointed By Christ** – Romans 12:3-8... Titus 1:5-9

<2> **Chosen and Called** – Acts 6:1-7... 14:23

<3> **Solemnly Set Apart** – 1 Timothy 4:14... 5:22

(3<sup>rd</sup>) MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH (Para 10) – *‘Pastors are required to give constant attention to the service of Christ in His churches; they are to be engaged in the ministry of the Word and in prayer, and to seek the welfare of men's souls as those that must give account to the Lord. It is therefore imperative that the churches to which they minister should give them, according to the churches' ability, not only all due honor, but such abundance of this world's material good as will enable them to live in comfort, without the need to entangle themselves in secular employment, and which will also suffice to enable them to exercise hospitality towards others. Such an arrangement is required by the law of nature itself, and by the express command of our Lord Jesus, who has decreed that 'they that preach the gospel should live of the gospel.'* – Acts 6:4... 1 Cor 9:6-14... Gal 6:6,7... 1 Tim 3:2... 5:17,18... 2 Tim 2:4... Heb. 13:17

**<1> Pastor's Responsibilities to the Church** – Acts 6:3-4... Hebrews 13:17... Acts 14:22... 1 Peter 5:1-4

**<2> Church's Responsibilities to their Pastors** – 1 Thess 5:12-13... 1 Cor 9:6-14... 1 Tim 5:17-18...

**<3> Ministry of Other Gifted Members** (Para 11) – *‘Although it is the duty of the elders or pastors of the churches, according to their office, to be constantly active in preaching the Word, yet such a work is not to be regarded as confined wholly to them, for the Holy Spirit may qualify others for the same work by giving them the necessary gifts. In this case, when such men are approved and called to the work by the church, they may and ought to perform it.’* – Acts 11:19-21... 1 Pet 4:10,11