The Work of Elders
1 Tim 3:1; 1 Thess. 5:12-13

Introduction:
A. Elders have a great and needed work to do.
   1. Common sense says someone needs to be in charge.
   2. Divine wisdom says elders need to be in charge – Holy Spirits made overseers.
B. Elders and members alike need to know the work of elders.
C. We will notice the scope, nature and abuses of the work of elders:

Discussion:
I. The Scope of the Work of Elders.
   A. They are elders of the church (cf. Acts 14:23; 20:17)
      1. Oversee church affairs, not homes, businesses, government, etc.
      2. As soul watchers, must step in if home life, business practice etc., endanger the soul.
   B. They of elders of the local church – its’s members and work (Acts 14:23; 1 Pet. 5:1-5).

II. The Nature of the Work of Elders.
   A. As seen from their titles.
      1. “Elder” = Older, then to leading or ruling body of older men.
         a. Among Gentiles (Gen. 50:17; Num. 22:7)
         b. Among Jews (Num. 11:16; Duet 27:1; Matt. 16:21; 26:47; Luke 7:3)
         c. In the church.
      2. “Bishop” or “overseer” = Guardian, curator, or superintendent.
   B. As seen from New Testament descriptions
      2. Rulers (or leaders) and care takers of the house of God (1 Tim. 3:5; 5:17-19).
      3. Admonishers of the church (1 Thess. 5:12-13)
   C. As seen from their relationship to Christ.
      1. Under shepherds (cf. 1 Pet. 5:4; 2:25)
      2. Not lawmakers (Jas. 4:12) nor law changers (Gal. 1:8,9).
   D. Not mere business managers.

III. The Abuses of the Work of Elders.
   A. When elders become “lords” (1 Pet. 5:1-5).
   B. When elders are reduced to figure-heads.
      1. Their work done by preachers, majority, etc.
      2. Their work done by substitute arrangements – “Leaders,” voting, permanent business meetings.
   C. When unqualified men appointed to the work.

Conclusion:
A. Eldership is a work! A good work! A responsible work!
B. Should be done with joy!