

## *Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for March 10-11, 2001**

**The Epistle of Joy**

**Philippians 1:1-2**

**Dale Whitehead**

### The Overseers

The authority to lead a local church did not rest in the congregation. The authority to lead the local church did not rest in a single man called "the pastor" but in a group of men called "overseers."

The term "overseer" (*episkopos*), "elder" (*presbuteros*), and 'pastor' (*poimen*) all refer to the same person (Acts 20:17-38).

The term "elder" emphasizes the maturity of the church leaders. The term "shepherd" or "pastor" emphasizes their care for those given to their charge. The term "bishop" or "overseer" emphasizes their function.

God's design for the local church was that the church would be led by a plurality of Biblically qualified men (Titus 1:5).

One man rule is a flawed design and can lead to serious problems.

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Congregational rule is a flawed design and can lead to serious problems.

Generally speaking the leaders of the church are to be above reproach (1 Timothy 3:2).

Specifically speaking the leaders of the church are to meet all the qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.

The leaders of the church need to be highly qualified because the congregation is commanded to follow them (Hebrews 13:17).

The leaders of the church need to be highly qualified because the Lord will hold them accountable (Hebrews 13:17).