Plurality of Elders

*Barnabas and Saul gave their offering for Judea's poor to the elders (Acts 11:30)

* the elders at Jerusalem united with the twelve apostles to deliberate over doctrinal controversy (Acts 15)

* The Biblical record reveals oversight be the plurality of elders in the churches of Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch (Acts 14:23); in the church at Ephesus (Acts 20:17; 1 Timothy 3:17; 5:17-25); the church at Philippi (Phil. 1:1); the churches on the island of Crete (Titus 1:5); and according to Peter, the churches in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia (1 Peter 1:1; 5:1).

* Both the apostles Paul and Peter directly charged the elders of the church to pastor (Shepherd) and oversee the local congregation (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1,2).

* At both the beginning and end of Paul's ministry, he appointed a plurality of elders to care for the churches he planted (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5). According to the Titus 1:5 passage, Paul did not consider a church to be fully developed until it had functioning, qualified elders.

* Paul calls on the congregation to render double honor to the elders who "rule" the church well, especially the elders who work hard at "preaching and teaching." This honor includes financial help (1 Timothy 5:17,18).

* Paul states that the elders are the stewards, or household managers, of the local assemble (Titus 1:7)

* Paul states that the elders are the church's overseers (Acts 20:28; Phil 1:1).

* The elders are solemnly charged to protect the church from false teachers (Acts 20:28-31; Titus 1:9-11).

* Elders are men placed in the church as overseers by the Holy Spirit of God (Acts 20:28)

* Peter warns the elders against being too authoritative 1 Peter 5:3

* James instructs the saints to call for the elders of the church if they are sick (James 5:14).

* Men must be qualified before they can serve as elders (1 Tim 3; Titus 1)

*Paul states that the elders 'take care of the church of God" 1 Timothy 3:5)