

## THE ELDERSHIP IS THE STRENGTH OF THE CHURCH ~ SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2012 A.M.

### HEBREWS 13:17

#### I. THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

##### A. Attentiveness of elders

1. They “watch” for our souls (13:17b)
  - i. The word “watch” means “to be sleepless, keep awake...to be circumspect, attentive, ready” Elders are ever vigilant, and their desire and prayer for us is to be:
    - a. Steadfast in worship (Heb 10:25)
    - b. Students of the word (1 Pet 2:2; 2 Tim 2:15; Isa 34:16)
    - c. Servants in the work (Tit 2:14; 1 Co 15:58)

##### B. Accountability of elders

1. Elders will give account of those under their oversight (13:17c). We can make their work a joyful one by striving to live a:
  - i. A fruitful life (Jo 15:8; Matt 5:16; Rom 6:21-22)
  - ii. A faithful life (Jas 1:12)

#### II. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

##### A. Appreciation of elders

1. The obligations of the church
  - i. Support the eldership (1 Thess 5:12-14)
    - a. Pray for our elders and their wives (1 Thess 5:17; Col 4:2)
    - b. Encourage them in their work (Acts 11:23)
    - c. Hold up their hands in the work (Ex 17:8-13)
    - d. Willingly and gladly labor in the work (Isa 6:8)
  - ii. Submit to the eldership (13:17a)
    - a. Elders uphold the law of King Jesus and strive to execute His will on earth (Col 3:17; Matt 28:19-20; Acts 20:32; Gal 6:10)
      - i. They exercise authority in matters of expediency and we are to submit to their decisions.