

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Leadership**

"A prime function of the leader is to keep hope alive." – John Gardner

"The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on." – Walter Lippmann, column in tribute to Franklin D. Roosevelt, 14 Apr 1945

"If you wish to know what a man is, place him in authority." – Proverb (Yugoslav)

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." – John Quincy Adams

"People ask the difference between a leader and a boss. The leader leads, and the boss drives." – Theodore Roosevelt

Leadership is difficult in the times in which we live. Much of the resentment toward leaders grew out of the 1960s with the Hippie Movement. Those deeply involved in that pushed hard to build a resentment toward all figures of authority. This likely has a strong bearing on the fact that so many have a dim or low view of elderships and authority today.

From the days of Moses, we know that leadership can be a thankless position. The children of Israel murmured against Moses, even though he was trying to follow the will of God (Exod. 15:24). There was murmuring against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness (Exod. 16:2), and at Rephidim (Exod. 17:3), etc.

The Bible speaks of the challenge of elders. "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). "Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, nor for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being example to the flock" (1 Pet. 5:2-3).

Perhaps the passage that so many do not like is the one found in Hebrews, "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you" (Heb. 13:17).

Far too many have expressed reservations about the authority of an eldership. They are leaders who have a genuine concern for our souls. The enormity of their task is much greater than many realize. Our love and adoration for them, and certainly our prayers, are coveted by them. For those who serve, I say with the highest respect and honor, Thank You!