

that he had before, or when he appoints someone as his successor ~~xxxxxxx~~ who is unqualified, there are so many ~~xxxxxxx~~ dangers connected with it that the Lord, in order to balance us against it, puts the stress in the Acts and the epistles on the group that establishes policy, and ~~x~~ on the fact that control and ~~and~~ determination of policy is ~~x~~ vested in a group, rather than in any one person. And that is very often the ~~sxx~~ situation in Scriptures. The Scripture does not take up a subject and try to give us a carefully balanced discussion. It takes up different aspects and deals with it. And often it takes the aspect that we are apt to overlook and stresses it, in order to balance the aspect that is quite ~~xxxxxxx~~ obvious.

And so if you took the Acts and the epistles by themselves, you would say, it is God's will that every church be run by a group of elders, bishops or elders, whatever you want to call them, selected from among the people, should determine things, should make the decisions, and then you go ahead and they decide everything, and no ~~xx~~ one of them should have the preeminence. You would reach that conclusion if you just took the Acts and the epistles. But in actual experience you find that before long you have one man who is the presiding officer, the ruling elder, the teaching elder, the pastor, the minister, whatever you want to ~~xx~~ call him. They are modern words, of course. They are not Scriptural words. We notice how seldom these particular words are used. The elder is a very common Scriptural word, and so is bishop, but minister is not. But the development inevitably is in that direction.

~~xxxxxxx~~

And so we have a problem, which we will have ~~xxxxxxx~~ as long ~~xxx~~ as there are people. The problem of how widely the exercise of power should be distributed. And the answer to the problem is not to divide up the power, so widely that nobody has enough to do anything, and nobody thinks of it at all.....(end of record)

Record 29

But keep your organization such that you can watch these people, and if their hearts turn away from God, and they begin seeking their own selfish advances, or they begin doing things to