

# **INFLUENCE OF DENOMINATIONALISM ON THE LORD'S CHURCH IV**

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## **THE ELDERSHIP, CONTINUED**

Also, as was true in the time of Hosea, so it is today, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6). It is sad that many of our problems today stem directly from the lack of Biblical knowledge on the part of elderships. There seems to be a disposition among many that would have every church with an “eldership” even if qualified men are absent. In too many places in the church, the only qualifications looked for in men of the congregations are “specific” ones. That is, does he have a wife, believing children, a good report, conservative financial planner? Now, all of these qualifications are important. But, too many times, churches overlook the other qualifications. One of the qualifications that must be present is implied in the command to “watch for your souls” (Hebrews 13:17). The elders must have the time to do the work ascribed to them by God and in His Word. And, they must study and know the Word to know how to fill the office. Often it is the case that men have been appointed to the position because of their standing in the business world. So, they do not have the time to be elders and at the same time work excessive hours at their jobs. They do not study as they should, so they are ignorant of the Word. Choices must be made. The work of the Lord is too important and vital to allow unqualified men into the position of being an elder.

## **CONCLUSION**

The church in many areas has lost its distinctive identity. This is due in great part to the inroads that have been made into the church by denominationalism. The congregations are no longer “churches of Christ” (Romans 16:16). They have become denominational groups. Today, many churches are being “reconstructed” into the image of the particular false teacher at its helm. No longer are our brethren content with the “old Jerusalem” gospel. People are clamoring for the new and the novel doctrines of the “scholars” in the church. The “old old story” has become the old and boring story to many in the body of Christ. But, it is not as gloomy as it at times may seem. Thank God for faithful preachers, elders, and members who desire, yes, demand the “old paths” (Jeremiah 6:16). We will never fail

in the work of the Lord as long as we continue to “preach the Word” (II Timothy 4:2). The Word of the Lord never returns to Him void but will accomplish its purpose (Isaiah 55:11). Also, since much was written about the problems of liberalism and such in some of our schools, we are grateful for schools that do stand for the Truth and teach their students the same. Sound schools are to be encouraged and supported for the great work they do! Let’s be in constant prayer that we all stand fast in opposition to the error that comes to us via Satan and his servants.