Elders and Deacons in the New Testament

REVIEW

Week 1:

Elders in OT and NT scripture

Background

- Jewish roots
- associated priests and teachers
- not a continuation of OT priest
- new in the early church

Function in the early church

- General oversight, direction (Acts 20)
- Teaching scripture, boundaries of doctrine (1 Tim, Heb 13)
- Encourage, protect, be example to the church (1 Pet, Titus)

Week 2:

Deacons in the NT

Function in the early church

- Appears to be born out of the need to delegate responsibilities (Acts 6)
- manage ministry works of the church, free apostles to word
- servants of the gospel (widely used term)
- assist and provide care for...

Elders and Deacons in the New Testament

SYNOPSIS

ELDERS

- teachers
- leaders
- directors
- governors
- boundaries (doctrines)
- protectors
- examples

DEACONS

- ministry leaders
- servers
- ministers
- · care providers
- encouragers
- examples

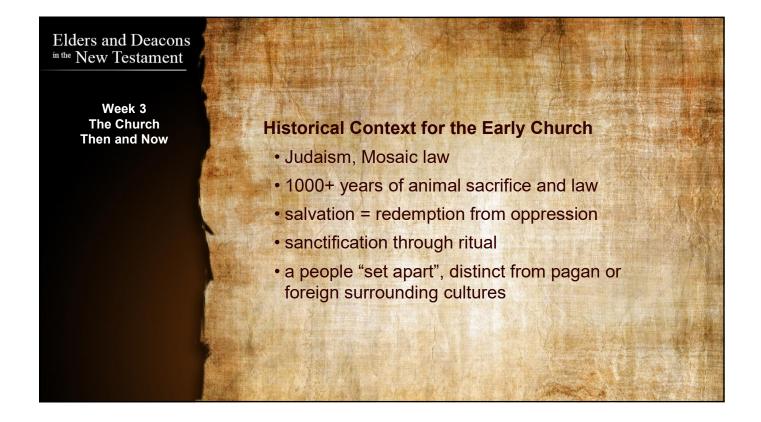
Elders and Deacons in the New Testament

The Early Church - a snapshot

Why were both groups (elders and deacons) needed?

The Church Today - a reflection

Are both groups (elders and deacons) still needed? In what way has our context changed? What facets are still the same?



Elders and Deacons in the New Testament A New Gospel for the Early Church Week 3 The Church Gal 3:10-12 · wholesale recasting of LAW, extreme Then and Now doctrinal redirection **Historical Context** for the Early · sacrifices, practices of self Heb 10:3-10 Church Mosaic law Gal 5:2-6 identification abolished 1000+ years of animal sacrifice salvation = Gal 2:20-21 redemption from salvation redefined oppression sanctification "growing in Christ" a completely through ritual 2 Cor 3:15-18 a people "set new and abstract concept apart", distinct from pagan or foreign Eph 2:11-13 surrounding two have been made one cultures

Elders and Deacons in the New Testament

The "New Gospel" for the Early Church:

- wholesale recasting of law, extreme doctrinal redirection
- abolished long standing rituals of sacrifice and identification
- redefined what was meant by "salvation"
- replaced "purification" with "sanctification"
- claimed "they" could be saved just like "us"

Elders and Deacons in the New Testament

THE ELDERS WORK

Earl	y (Ch	ur	ch
------	-----	----	----	----

- wholesale recasting of law
- abolished long standing rituals
- salvation redefined
- sanctification not purification
- •grace open to all

Today

- Sound and consistent preaching and teaching
- discernment of rituals and religious practices
- salvation affirmed (point 1)
- scriptural implications for spiritual maturity of believers
- equal and freely distributed grace to "them"

Elders and Deacons in the New Testament

	ELDERS	DEACONS		
EARLY CHURCH	Teach scripture so that believers had a clear understanding of the (new) gospel of Jesus Christ Biggest challenge: HISTORICAL CONTEXT	Take ownership of the work of ministry (expression of the gospel), build each other up, gospel lived out in service Biggest challenge: CULTURAL CONTEXT		
TODAY	Continue to provide leadership and teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ - both core gospel and implications	Take ownership of the work of ministry (expression of the gospel), build each other up, gospel lived out in service		
	Biggest challenge: CULTURAL CONTEXT	Biggest challenge: HISTORICAL CONTEXT		

