

EDITORIAL

Our Lord Jesus Christ had said, “I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18). True to His word, He has been building His church down through the ages. After His ascension, He sent the Holy Spirit upon His apostles and the early believers to unite them and to build up the church. The church, being the household of God, is “built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone” (Ephesians 2:20). As the fledgling post-Pentecost church spread far and wide, the congregations were commanded to be well-organised under the leadership of pastors and elders, who were assisted by deacons. The apostle Paul wrote about this in his epistles to Timothy and Titus, where the miraculous gifts and offices of the apostles and prophets are not mentioned as the leadership offices of the church. Instead, the focus was on elders and deacons.

The offices of the elders and deacons are open only to godly and well-instructed men in the church (1 Timothy 3:1-13). Faithfulness to God and fervency to do the work of the Lord are expected in all who take up the offices of the church. Consider the words of the apostles to the Jerusalem church when they called on the church to select seven men to oversee the diaconal (service) ministry to care for the widows and the needy – “Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business” (Acts 6:3). Clearly, spiritual and moral requirements are deemed necessary to fulfil the various roles of leadership in the church.

Hence, our prayer as we publish this issue of Bible Witness is that churches of our time will be committed to biblical spiritual leadership. The church without biblical leadership is in great peril! If the church leadership would fall into the hands of men who are not preoccupied with the glory of God, people in the congregation will surely be led astray. Let us therefore pray for men of wisdom and faithfulness to fill the offices of our churches. May the Lord be pleased to use the articles in this magazine to stir men of His choice to serve Him and His people with humility, holiness, fervency and faithfulness.

Prabhudas Koshy