He should be able to labor diligently among the people of God (1 Thessalonians 5:12).

He should be able to communicate the Word of God to the people of God (Hebrews 13:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:12).

He should be able to exhort by sound doctrine, and to refute those who oppose sound doctrine (Titus 1:9).

He should be able to guard the people of God against false teachers and their teachings (Acts 20:28a, 29-31; Titus 1:10-11)

He should be able to review and evaluate the ministry of those who minister as itinerant evangelists and missionaries of the church (Acts 21:11-19).

He should be able to consider theological questions related to the basis of Christian life and fellowship, and to give judgment to the church on such issues (Acts 15:1-2, 6-7a, 22-25).

He should be able to provide an example of faith and humility to the people of God (Hebrews 13:7, I Peter 5:3).

He should be able to pray for sick believers in the church (James 5:14).

He should be able to oversee the disposition of contributions to the church (Acts 11:30).

If a man does not have the requisite character, gifts, knowledge, time, health, energy, and either the "know-how" or willingness to learn how to carry out these functions, he should not (with occasional exception) be chosen to this office.

Both qualities of character and ability to perform the functions relevant to the office of bishop-elder-pastor are needful. A godly character that adorns the doctrine coupled with sound beliefs and the necessary leadership, administrative, and pastoral gifts and abilities are requisite to this office.

(d)   The twofold classification within this office

I Timothy 5:17 -- "Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching."

Analysis of the features of the text, considered separately, yields the following:

First, we have elders who rule, and we have elders who rule well

Second, we have elders who preach and teach, and we have elders who labor (work hard) at preaching and teaching