

The text says that those who work hard at preaching and teaching are worthy of double honor. What is the nature of this honor? is it tangible or non-tangible?

These elders who labor at preaching and teaching have this as their occupation. It is their vocation in life. Those elders who rule but do not labor in preaching and teaching have other occupations. They pursue the occupations for which God has gifted and prepared them. If honorable, these occupations are their vocation in life. The nature of the honor they should receive could be non-monetary, since they already earn their living by means of their occupations. What form could this honor take?

I Thessalonians 5:12-13 exhorts the members of the church to give recognition to their elders, to respect them, to hold them in high esteem, and to show love to them. Hebrews 13:7 exhorts believers to remember the labors of their elders, to imitate their faith, to obey them and submit to them, and to make their tasks as joyful as possible, with as little grief as possible! Although these forms of "honor" are non-monetary, they are extremely important

But what about those elders who labor in preaching and teaching? Is their "honor" to be only non-material? Or can and should it also be tangible and material?

I Timothy 5:18 (the next verse after the text) says: "For the scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing,' and 'The laborer is worthy of his wages.' " In I Corinthians 9:9-11 we read: "For it is written in the Law of Moses, 'You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing.' God is not concerned about oxen, is He? Or is He speaking altogether for our sake? Yes, for our sake it is written, because the plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher to thresh in hope of sharing the crops. If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we should reap material things from you?"

Our occupation in life is the way God has ordained that we earn our living, our means of providing for our needs and those of our dependents. These teaching elders are to earn their livelihood by means of their labor, their occupation. The Lord has directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel (I Corinthians 9:14).

(e) The ordination to this office

II Timothy 1:6 -- "And for this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands."

I Timothy 5:22 -- "Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thus share responsibility for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin."

I Timothy 4:14 -- "Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed upon you through the prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery."

The word translated "presbytery" (πρεσβυτερίον) occurs three times in the New Testament. What does it mean?

In Luke 22:66 it means the Sanhedrin, the Council of Elders of Israel, both chief priests and scribes. in Acts 22:5 it means the Council of Elders. Here in I Timothy 4:14 It appears to refer to more than an ad hoc