

***Scriptural Elders and Deacons*, by H.E. Phillips (Athens, AL: Truth Publications, Inc., 2019)**

In 1959, after eight years of extensive study and research H.E. Phillips first published *Scriptural Elders and Deacons*. In the years since then it has proven to be an invaluable resource to churches and individuals alike. Every church must consider what the Bible teaches about these special servants the Lord has set over local congregations of His people. Few books address the scope of this teaching in a manner as thorough and comprehensive as brother Phillips has done. Although decades have now passed since it was originally penned, this book continues to offer analysis of issues and practical questions as pertinent today as in years gone by. This is a book every elder and deacon should have in his library, and every Christian following their lead would do well to study again and again.

For many years Truth Publications, Inc. (formerly known as the Guardian of Truth Foundation) published brother Phillips's wonderful book. In 2019 the need arose for it to be reprinted. I had the privilege of scanning it, proofing it, and doing the layout and design for the reprint. As I read through it, I was amazed to see how a text written sixty years ago was still as pertinent to the issues and questions that arise in local congregation today—as may be seen from its Table of Contents:

- Chapter 1—The Nature of Church Organization
- Chapter 2—Perverted Organizations in the Church
- Chapter 3—The Scripturally Organized Church
- Chapter 4—No Elder Theory
- Chapter 5—The Relationship—Apostles, Elders, Preachers
- Chapter 6—The Eldership and Apostasy
- Chapter 7—The Authority of the Eldership
- Chapter 8—Scriptural Appellations of the Oversight
- Chapter 9—Attitudes toward Qualifications of Elders and the Consequences
- Chapter 10—The Qualifications of an Elder
- Chapter 11—The Duties of the Eldership
- Chapter 12—Duties of the Church toward the Elders
- Chapter 13—Ordaining of Elders
- Chapter 14—The Office of Deacon
- Chapter 15—The Qualifications of Deacons
- Chapter 16—Duties of Deacons and the Church
- Chapter 17—Concerning Wives of Officers of the Church
- Chapter 18—Questions and Answers on Church Officers

Those familiar with this book will note a more modern look to the layout and a cover designed to catch the eye, but the content is still the same rich, penetrating, and thoroughly Scriptural analysis that has drawn brethren to this text over the years. A typographical error or misspelling was corrected here or there—but these were few. There are a few dated references, but even these were surprising rare. Brother Phillips did a masterful job of applying the text to contemporary challenges without limiting it too narrowly to a given decade or generation. If you have never read this book, I wholeheartedly recommend it as a reference you will consult anytime issues of scriptural organization arise.

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January 2020