

# *The Most Important Decision a Congregation Makes*

*by Gene McCoy*

Selecting a preacher is among the important decisions a congregation must make. It warrants the time and expense required to check references and conduct interviews, not to mention the traditional “trial sermon” exercise. The entire process should be characterized by great care and significant prayer.

But the health and prosperity of a congregation depends much more upon the selection of qualified Elders. A congregation may survive and even thrive, even though a bad choice was made in “filling the pulpit.” A much greater threat to congregational health results when an unqualified person is granted the shepherd’s staff. Whereas a qualified eldership can offset the weaknesses and faults of a preacher, a preacher cannot overcome the obstacles to growth and congregational health presented by an unqualified Elder.

It is imperative, therefore, that every Christian sincerely study the Biblical standard regarding the office of Elder when recommending and selecting individuals to serve in that capacity.