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Subject: Fwd: Presbytery concept

From: Jim Watt <jmbetter@gmail.com>

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“TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE” MINISTRIES

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NAFTALI UPDATE - PRESBYTERY (ELDERSHIP) - June 9, 2011

1. 1 Timothy 1:18 (1:18-20) PRESBYTERY: BASIS FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE. “This :charge I commit to you, Timothy child, according to the prophecies which led the way to you, that by them you war the good warfare” (NNT). This was one of the first verses found by the elders of the North Battleford Revival - that encouraged them to believe that it was God and not the devil leading them! See how powerfully Paul sets this truth forth to Timothy! ***Hallowed be your :name.***

2. 1 Timothy 4:14 (4:11-16) PRESBYTERY: RESULTS CAN BE FORFEITED! “Neglect not the gift in you, which was given you through prophecy, with laying on of the hands of the presbytery.” Paul knew that his spiritual son Timothy was a timid soul - and needed encouragement to push on into full realization of truth and his potential. We can all neglect truth. At times we all need to hear Paul's exhortation to Timothy! ***Your :kingdom come!***

3. Acts 13:1-3. PRESBYTERY: FOR LAUNCHING MISSIONARIES. “Now in the church that was at Antioch were prophets and teachers, both :Barnabas and Symeon :called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen foster-brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 And as they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy :Spirit said, Separate me then :Barnabas and Saul for the work unto which I have called them. 3 Then, having fasted and prayed and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away.” The Presbytery sitting in the gate of a City Church - can be used of the Holy Spirit in a powerful way. Yet these 5 men continued fasting and praying after the Holy Spirit first spoke - to ensure that it was indeed Him speaking! ***Your :will be done, As in heaven, so on earth!***

4. Acts 15:2 (15:1-35) PRESBYTERY: SOLVES DOCTRINAL PROBLEMS. “And when :Paul and :Barnabas had no small dissension and questioning with them (Judaizers), they appointed Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, to go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this :question.” For me, this is one of the most powerful ministries of a City Presbyter. No matter how difficult the problem - the Holy Spirit through them can give the wisdom to solve all such problems! ***Our :daily :bread give us this day.***

5. Ruth 4:2 (4:1-17) PRESBYTERY: SOLVES INTERPERSONAL PROBLEMS. “And Boaz took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, Sit down here. And they sat down” (ASV '01). I like this example of a City Presbytery. This goes back to Bethlehem well over 3000 years ago! And the Presbytery was witness concerning the peaceful solution arrived at by Boaz and the nearer Kinsman. ***And forgive us our :debts, as we also have forgiven our :debtors.***

6. Luke 22:66 (22:66-71) PRESBYTERY: A CORRUPT EXAMPLE. “And when it was day, the elder ship of the people were gathered, both chief priests and scribes; and they led him away to their :Sanhedrin.” The Sanhedrin of 70 in the City of Jerusalem was a Presbytery to solve problems. But through centuries of sloth, they had degenerated into such corruption - that they committed Jesus to death in the midst of rank injustice and perfidy. ***And bring us not into temptation!***

7. Acts 22:5 (21:37-22:21) PRESBYTERY: A FORMER CONNECTION FOR PAUL! “As also the high priest witnesses and all the Eldership: from whom also I received letters unto

the brethren, and journeyed to Damascus to bring them also that were there to Jerusalem in bonds to be punished.” And what of Paul's pre-conversion state? He was a member of this corrupt body, and a witness to the unjust death and martyrdom of Stephen, the first Christian martyr! The conversion of Saul of Tarsus out of such a body is a miracle indeed! ***But deliver us from the evil one.***

NOTE: The February 1948 Visitation by God at North Battleford, Saskatchewan, is a Red Letter mark in God's economy. Azusa Street, LA, California started a Restoration in the Holy Spirit and the manifestation of Gifts of the Spirit leading to multiplied evangelism. But 1948 added to this dispensation. 12 Restoration Revival Principles came together this year, laying an Embryonic Foundation - that God intended to mature prior to the return of His Son.

The first of these 12 Restoration Principles was that of the Presbytery or Eldership in the Gate of each City Church. Even this first restoration concept was but dimly understood in 1948. The fullness of its usefulness may not even be seen yet today. Primarily, it was seen then in the 1 Timothy 1:18 context, and perhaps also Acts 13:1-3. Other functions of this Eldership in the Gate of each City Church was scarcely perceived, if not at all.

There is a Biblical principle often expressed: “The first shall be last; and the last first!” Strangely enough, the Israeli tribe of Naphtali is listed last on Aaron's Breastplate of Judgment, and is associated with the “Presbytery Concept,” restored on February 12, 1948.

But Judah is listed first on the Breastplate of Judgment over the heart of the High Priest, and is associated with the Heavenly Choir - and this was the 12th or last Revival Principle to be restored in Edmonton in October 1948. God seems to love doing things like this - that we in turn can later search out and marvel.

Perhaps the Presbytery Concept restored in 1948, has been one of the most abused of the 12 Revival Principles of that year. “A text without a context is a pretext,” has been often quoted. If only the full body of Scripture had been restored in 1948, the aberrations in the development of the Presbytery concept could have been avoided. For instance - the Presbytery of 3 cities close where Timothy grew up - all intimately knew him at the time Paul

asked elders from them to set Timothy apart to be his co-worker. But today - oftentimes the Presbytery is not allowed any foreknowledge of candidates before ministering to them. This is unscriptural, and tempting God, and has caused many prophetic errors to take place that need not have happened - had simply the content of the whole of Scripture been applied! On one occasion George Hawtin watched me doing Greek Word Studies and outlining NT books on the basis of God's Bible Numerics as revealed to Russian Ivan Panin. He said - "Jimmy - I wish to God I could do what you are doing!" I was 25 at the time and thought - "What is going to happen to this movement if you don't?" Ultimate Reconciliation, British Israel and extreme Manifestation of the sons of God are but three of some 6-7 aberrations that came into this movement in the next few years.

I remember one of the favorite illustrations of Ivan Panin: "Just as a drop of ocean water holds in trace form every constituent element of the ocean - so every scripture must contain in trace form every teaching of the entire Bible!" No contradictions. That means teachers must be well prepared to share the Word of God. This is why James says in his 5 chapter letter, "**Be not many teachers, my brethren, knowing that we shall receive greater condemnation!**" (James 3:1). So many self-called teachers seem to fail to understand - that one day they shall appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ to answer for the incorrect teaching they gave down here on earth! This is the reason I have prepared God's Bible Numeric Outlined Interlinear Greek NT - Greek Word Studies - and a Through the Bible in a Year Daily Devotional - so that I can correct myself if any of my beliefs or doctrine does not line up with the Word of God. I would rather be corrected down here, than hear Christ correcting me at His Judgment Seat - when it would then be too late!

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