

**“WE WILL DEVOTE OURSELVES TO PRAYER AND THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD”**

ACTS 6:1-7

*God always required his people to care for the needs of widows;*

**DEUTERONOMY 24:17-21**

"You shall not...take a widow's garment in pledge, but you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this. "When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the...widow...When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over them again. It shall be for the...widow...When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not strip it afterward. It shall be for the...widow."

*The New Testament describes basic Christian morality as the care for widows;*

**JAMES 1:27**

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

*The preaching and teaching of the word is primary;*

**2 TIMOTHY 4:1-2**

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word.

**TITUS 1:9**

[An elder] must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

*Requirements of the “deacons”;*

- 1** Be men (1 Cor. 11:3, 8-9; 14:43; 1 Tim. 2:11-12)
- 2** Good reputation (1 Tim. 3:8-13; Tit. 1)
- 3** Filled with Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4)
- 4** Possess wisdom (1 Chr. 12:32)