

the need to organize and direct a course of life or action for God...your own life is enough of a job for most persons to order in the concept of rule.

2. Ruling: What does the Scripture say?

Since God is a god of order we are not surprised that the Bible has a lot to say about the ruling matter. As with our previous paragraph it scatters its materials over all the meaningful areas of life.

a. Luke 19:12 and following. This is the parable of the pounds where the Lord instructs His own to "occupy till I come." Around them are wicked persons who will not have Him rule. But the man given ten pounds has gained ten pounds..he is commended. So with the man given 5. But the man with 1 pound has refused to so much as put it into the bank that the master may have had the simple interest equation. He is blamed and the wicked are eventually judged in a fearful way for their denial of the Lord's rule. This is simply a matter of ordering a course for God.

b. Acts 6:1-4...the appointment of the deacons to relieve the disciples of non-word-ministry chores. Note that the men chosen are noted for being faithful and full of the Holy Ghost.

c. 1 Peter 5:1-3, 1 Timothy 5:17 and 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 are more specifically appointed to the elders but are quite strict in noting how these are expected to set a course that will result in the health of God's people and then they are expected to follow it.

d. 1 Th. 4:9-12, Titus 3:8, 14 all tell us of the ordering of our lives for the minding of our own affairs and the production of the good works that will glorify God.

e. And in 1 Corinthians 9 is given the appointment of Paul with the dispensation of the Gospel. It is one that he cannot ignore but gets no special reward for filling. It is both privilege and duty and he says "woe unto me" if he is less than diligent.