

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 2 & 3

SUMMARY:

Paul is not just concerned with sound doctrine. He exhorts men and women to show adoration to God in public and private worship. Each Christian has the privilege and responsibility to worship God in the proper manner. This consists of becoming actively involved in the lives of those we know. National, regional and local leaders are to be on our prayer lists. Not only those men in high places, but ALL MEN are to be a part of our prayer life.

Paul speaks to men and women concerning the way each is to worship. He also indicates the responsibilities men have to the women. Face it, men, we are to be the spiritual leaders of our homes, churches, and communities. When we take that position our wives will accept our leadership most gladly. It is the Lord's will, begin today to become the leader God would have you be.

SECTION IV. GOD'S LEADERS FOR HIS CHURCH. 3:1-16

I. THE ELDERS. vs. 1-7

A. Two thoughts that introduce the qualifications of an elder:

It is correct, when a man desires the office of bishop he desires a good work. v. 1

1. The man must first DESIRE to do the work required of an elder.
 - a. Instead of the church searching for elders, the men should be searching for the eldership.
 - b. This indicates the growth which is expected in Christ is expected of each man.

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 3

2. That the eldership is a mission for good work to perform, not just an office to occupy as a figurehead.
 3. So we ask the obvious question - "what is the MISSION of the eldership?"
 - a. In Acts 20:28-35, we have a general picture of the overall works of an elder.
 - b. We might list some of the specifics as such:
 1. Chart - "A bird's-eye VIEW of the elders' JOB."
 2. Also, look in your notes for the "Eldership at the Ninth Street Church, Eldon, Mo." By Roy Weece.
 3. All other special articles will be helpful here.
- A. THE CARE OF NEW MEMBERS.
1. That they be secured in the faith.
 - a. Surface individual needs.
 - b. Surface family needs.
 - c. Outline a plan of growth, being aware that the plan must be flexible to allow for growth and to fit their need pattern.
 2. There must be the recruiting, training and motivating of new members.
 - a. Set personal goals for each new member.
 - b. Provide a spiritual development program.
 1. Be willing at all times to listen to the new convert.

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 3

2. Train them in jobs and share responsibilities with them.
3. Give them specific job descriptions so they will know what is expected of them.
4. Continue to monitor their spiritual life. Checking for growth or the lack of it. Then make the proper adjustments.

B. THE ELDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION.

1. Provide leadership.

- a. Here, too, personal needs must be met.
- b. This will be different than those of the new members but they are no less important.
- c. Be by their sides during times of crisis and joys.
- d. Provide personal aid and counsel when needed.

2. They must have a program of self-improvement.

- a. Make Bible Study attractive and helpful to each one.
- b. Develop self-starters.
- c. Help them to analyze their own spiritual lives.
- d. Help them to overcome weaknesses, fears, and doubts.
- e. Help them to understand that they really are men and women of God.

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 3

- f. Recruit, train and motivate them for special studies and activities.
- g. Keep abreast of developing situations and events.
- h. Continually develop fresh and aggressive ideas for the Lord.
- i. Always keep the entire congregation informed.

C. DEVELOP POSITIVE AND POSSIBILITY THINKERS.

1. This is the greatest work in the world and the God we serve is a great God. When we understand that we will look on the bright side of life and expect great things to happen.
2. Get Spirit-filled men to aid the elders in their work.
3. Plan at least one year in advance. Continue to lengthen this period of planning yearly. "To fail to plan is to plan to fail."
4. Train those you have chosen to help so they will be most effective for God and feel comfortable in His work.
5. Be counsellors and encouragers of one another.
6. Work together as a team in this great Family of God.

D. THE ELDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WHOLE OF THE CHURCH WORKING TOGETHER.

1. Committees
2. Women's work

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 3

3. Missions
4. Youth
5. Bible School
6. Plus the host of all the activities that need the watchful care of men of God who care for the souls of mankind.

Gentlemen, I realize this is a huge responsibility. But I firmly believe that men today can fulfill the task. Each time God has given a job, He has given the equipment to accomplish the task. He has not stranded us today. If you feel unequal to the task you may rest assured that every man, whether elder, deacon or evangelist, who is trying to do God's will in God's way feels the same as you. The ability or power comes not from the individual man, IT COMES FROM OUR LIVING GOD. Take heart, He cares for, and will guide you, as you commit your life to His service under His LEADERSHIP.

1. Again, these too, are general. The men of this congregation must take the responsibility to see that the Family of God at Treaty, Indiana is properly shepherded.
 2. THAT, MEN, IS THE MISSION OF THE ELDER AT TREATY, INDIANA, OR WHEREVER YOU SERVE!
- B. Now we look at the rest of the qualifications of the eldership in I Tim. 3. The Bishop must be: v. 2.
1. Without reproach - $\alpha\upsilon\epsilon\pi\iota\lambda\eta\pi\tau\omicron\upsilon$ - "not to be taken hold of - irreproachable." Robertson Word Pictures P. 572 Vol. IV. "Not open to censure" - Vine, P. 131.
 2. The husband of one wife - $\mu\iota\alpha\varsigma$ $\gamma\upsilon\upsilon\alpha\iota\kappa\omicron\varsigma$ - "one at a time, clearly." Robertson, p.572
- " $\mu\iota\alpha\varsigma$ " - is used to signify, one in contrast to many. Vine, p. 137

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 3

3. Temperate - νεφάλιος - "to be sober". Robertson, p. 572.
4. Sober minded - σωφρων - "Sound mind". Ibid.
"Sound mind - have self-controlled." Vine, p. 44. Be able to make up his mind.
5. Orderly - "κόσμιος - Seemly, decent conduct". Robertson, p. 572. "Same root word is translated 'modest' in I Timothy 2:9." Vine, p. 145-146.
6. Given to hospitality - "φιλοξενος - love of strangers." Vine, p. 235.
7. Apt to teach - διδάσκαλος - one qualified to teach." Robertson, p. 572.
8. No brawler - "με πάροινος - one who sits long at (beside) his wine." Robertson, p. 572.

Tarrying at wine, given to wine...probably has the secondary sense, of the effects of wine-bibbing, viz., abusive brawling. Hence R.V., 'brawler'." Vine, p. 146. vs. 3.
9. No striker - "με πλήκτης - to strike." Robertson p. 572. "A striker, a brawler (akin to πλησσω, to strike, smite). I Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7." Vine, p. 83.
10. But gentle - "επιεικτη - sweet reasonableness." Matthew Arnold as in Robertson, p. 459.

"...it expresses that considerateness that looks humanely and reasonably at the facts of a case." Vine, ps, 144 & 145.
11. Not contentious - "αμαφον - not a fighter." Robertson, p. 573.

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 3

12. No lover of money - "αφιλαργυρον- Let your manner of life be without love of money." Robertson, p. 445, Vol. V

13. Rules his own house well - "πρωσταμενου- to place before, stand before." Robertson, p. 573, Vol. IV.

"Indicating care and diligence." Vine, p. 307

a. His children are to follow his example. V. 4

b. If he cannot lead, by example, his family, how can he be expected to lead the Family of God which is more complex in nature than his own family. V. 5

c. The same loving care he shows to his family (which causes them to follow him), is the same love that will motivate a congregation to follow his example.

14. Not a novice - (με νεοφυτου) "newly planted". Robertson, p. 573.

"Denotes a new convert, neophyte, one who by inexperience is unfitted to act as a bishop or overseer in a church." Vine, p. 119

a. The danger: being "newly planted" he may overestimate his spiritual depth if placed as an elder too soon.

b. If this is done he will fall into the same condemnation as the devil - unre-pented pride!

c. The bitter end is eternity in hell unless a brother give great aid as James 5:19-20 indicates.

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 3

15. Have a good testimony from them that are without. V. 7.
 - a. "That are without" are those outside the church family.
 - b. The elder is to enjoy a fine reputation among the community.
 - c. Snare of the devil - "a snare set by the devil. The devil sets special snares for preachers: conceit, money, women, ambition." Robertson, p. 574, Vol.IV.

II. THE DEACONS: Verses 8-13.

A. The qualifications as shown in Acts 6:3.

1. Men of good report - "μαρτυρουμενους"-men with a good reputation. Robertson, p. 73.
2. Full of the Spirit - Men whose lives were led by God's Spirit as opposed to men who were ruled by the values of the world.
3. And of wisdom - not only are they led by God's Spirit, they know how to live and apply God's principles to the everyday routine of life. They know how to make Christianity practical! Therefore they were leaders in their congregation.

B. The qualifications of a deacon as given in I Timothy 3:8-13. v. 8

1. "In like manner - refers back to the elders. The deacons are to be great spiritual men also!
2. Grave - (σεμνός) - the word we want is one in which the sense of gravity and dignity are combined. The word points to seriousness of purpose and to self-respect in conduct." Vine, p. 173.

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 3

3. Not double-tongued - (μη διλογους) - "one placed between two persons and saying one thing to one, another to the other." Robertson, p. 574, Vol. IV.
 4. Not given to much wine - (μη οινοι) - "Not holding the mind on much wine. That attitude leads to over-indulgence." Ibid. p. 574.
 5. Not greedy of filthy lucre - (μη αιχροκερδεις) - "Making small gains in mean ways." Ibid. p. 574. "Filthy gain." Vine, p. 24.
 6. Holding the mystery of faith - (μυστηριον πιστεως) - The inner secret of faith the revelation given in Christ." v. 9. Robertson, p. 574.
 7. In a pure conscience - (ενκαθαραι συνειδησει) - "The container in which the wine is to be kept." Ibid, p. 574.
 8. First be proved - (δοκιμαζεσθωσαν πρωτον) "To test as metals are." v. 10. Ibid, p. 574.
 9. Then let them SERVE AS A DEACON.
 - a. διακονειτωσαν - TO SERVE. Ibid, 574-575.
 - b. Examples of deacons serving. "The Deacons and Their Responsibilities."
 10. If they be Blameless - (ανεγκλητοι οντες) Signifies that which cannot be called to account...with nothing laid to ones charge (as the result of public investigation). Vine, p. 131.
- C. Paul introduces a point of consideration. v. 11.
1. Women-in like manner- their lives must be holy, even as the lives of elders and deacons!

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 3

2. The question that has caused unended controversy through the ages, "who are these 'women' Paul refers to in this passage?"
"γυναϊκας" can mean either of the following:
 - a. Woman
 - b. Wife
 - c. Widow
 - d. In Rom. 16:1 Paul refers to Phoebe as a servant of the church. The word for servant here is "διεκονουον" which is translated "servant", while in I Tim. 3:11, the word translated "women" is "γυναϊκας" a completely different word.
 - e. What is the context? How do you answer this question?
 3. Be grave - (σεμνας) "the word we want is one in which the sense of gravity and dignity are combined. The word points to seriousness of purpose to self-respect in conduct." Vine, p. 173.
 4. Not slanderers - (μη διαβολους) "The devil being the chief slanderer, the slanderous woman is literally a she-devil." Robertson, p. 575.
 5. Temperate - (νεφελιον) "To be sober". Robertson, p. 572.
 6. Faithful in all things - (πιστασεν εν πασι) Living according to the Lord's leading in all ways. Loyal to all that is required of one to be an example for the Lord. Not trying to please both Satan and Christ.
- D. Concluding qualifications of the Deacons. v. 12-13.

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 3

1. Husband of one wife (μίας γυναικος)"μαιο" is used to signify one in contrast to many. Vine, p. 137. "One at a time," Robertson, p. 572. v. 12.
2. Ruling children and house well - (προισταμενοι...οικων) - "Stand before as an example, to place before." Robertson, p. 573.
"Indicating care and diligence." Vine, p. 307.
3. When they serve as a deacon should, they
 - a. Gain a good standing-"βαφμον...καλον" means
 1. Secure in the faith.
 2. This would be coupled with holding the mystery in pure conscience.
 - b. Great Boldness in the faith - "πολλην παρρησιαν"- confident in the Christ they serve. Able to do their work as a deacon because they have gained actual experience to go with their spiritual qualifications.
 - c. Their faith is in Christ Jesus. They know He will not let them down. They are encouraged to continually be a servant in His Kingdom.

III. PAUL'S REASONS FOR GIVING THESE GUIDELINES TO TIMOTHY. V. 14-16.

- A. He wrote them as a substitute, and preparation, for his coming to visit Timothy. V. 14.
 1. He is encouraging, by instruction, Timothy's ministry.
 2. He hopes to be with Timothy soon.
- B. He wants Timothy to know why these qualifi-

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 3

cations are given if, for some reason, he is not permitted to meet with Timothy. v. 15.

1. He wants Timothy to be able to teach men how to conduct themselves in God's house, church.
 2. He wants Timothy to know that it is from the church the message of salvation is heard. The church is the only soul saving agency on earth!
 3. He builds Timothy's confidence that the message of the church is TRUTH.
 4. This is the opposition to the false teachings of the Jews and Pagans.
- C. He emphasizes that God's mystery, His Son, now revealed is so great that His evidence refutes all objections against God or Christ. v. 16.
1. He was manifest in the flesh.
 - a. John 1:1-4
 - b. I John 1:1-4
 - c. I Peter 1:13-21
 2. Justified in the Spirit.
 - a. To declare righteous, to vindicate.
 - b. Christ was vindicated in His own Spirit. (Heb. 9:14), before men by overcoming death and rising from the dead. Robertson, p. 577.
 3. Seen of angels
 - a. Luke 24:4 - tomb
 - b. Ascension - angels spoke on His behalf.
 - c. I Peter 3:22

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 3

4. Preached among the nations.
 - a. He was preached to all people.
 - b. Col. 1:23
 - c. Matt. 28:19-20
 - d. Mark 16:20
 5. Believed on in the world.
 - a. II Thess. 1:10
 - b. Compare I Tim. 1:15
 - c. Not only was He proclaimed but He was accepted -- TWO VERY DISTINCT ACTS!
 6. Received up in Glory!
 - a. Ascension
 - b. Mark 16:19
 - c. Acts 1:9
 7. What a sermon!
- D. Paul is telling Timothy that the facts are real. They are dependable. I've given you these qualifications so men will know just how great a joy, ministry - and message they have.

SUMMARY:

In this chapter the offices of leadership are stated. Church polity, as God wants it, is outlined. To accept more than this is doing the unnecessary. To reject a part of this leadership plan is to reject God's wisdom.

We are also reminded of the importance of the wife to the leaders. She is to be a great example,

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 3

even as is her husband.

Just in case one begins to think that the eldership, deaconship or the work of an evangelist is of no real value, Paul lets us know we have the responsibility for the truth of God. We are leaders in our communities for Christ.

Then, to really convince us, he enumerates many great things that cannot be refuted. They are all a part of our stewardship as leaders.

There never has been a lawyer who prepared a better brief for any case than that which Paul presents at the close of this chapter. Be the leader, He (Christ) wants you to be, starting now!