

First Timothy Chapter 3

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We want God to work mightily in this world. And we see biblically, since messiahs ascension, he has worked in what's called the local Ecclesia. That that house of God, that location for those who are called out and acclaimed, it means just that those who are called out, now it's translated church. But it reminds us, of people like Abraham, and those that that John had a vision of, in the book of Revelation, those who are called out of this world into His marvelous light, to be a testimony for his truth, his work, and to do so, in order to bring glory and honor to Him. God works mightily through a local congregation. Now that congregation might be a formal one that has a building and such might be massive ones of 1000s of people, or it might meet one time or a few times in someone's home each week, might move from location, location, it might only be a handful of, of 610 1520 30 people, whatever. But this too, is a movement of the Holy Spirit. Don't look negatively upon these smaller congregations, these house congregations, because this is how it began early on. And I believe that God may be moving us back into such an experience. Well take out your Bible, and look with me to First Timothy and chapter three. Now we saw last week, that God, he has instructions, we're studying the pastoral epistles, we're seeing instruction for the local congregation. And we need to accept this as divine commandments, instructions that ought not be compromised. And I want to share with you a biblical account. It's from the book of First Samuel, and it concerns just this individual Samuel, and one other saw. Now Samuel was a priests, he had a call upon his life, but the king was the People's Choice, Saul. And Saul, one day became greatly alarmed, because Samuel had said outcome and offer up the sacrifices before we go to battle. Samuel, the man of his world, but because, according to Saul's thought, his vantage point, his rational mind what he thought was logical, he had envisioned that Samuel would come earlier. But Samuel did, and therefore, because he saw individuals beginning to flee to depart from the armies of Israel, he became concerned, he began to look at things with human eyes, to think of things with a rational mind and to behave logically. And what did that bring about? A great failure in souls life? Samuel came that day, but after, after saw had taken upon Himself to function in a role that God said, it doesn't belong to you, only my priests, and here's the problem. One of the things I heard last week from numerous people, is what if there's not a question abide, man, then we get no, no exceptions. We need to be people that hear God's instructions, they're not hard to understand and implement them. And if there's no qualified person, it is a call to pray, to wait. Many times we wait in order to pray, to to depend and to demonstrate our dependence, our our trust in God. So don't think because well, there's not a biblically qualified person here. So in the meantime, we'll stick this person in. That is the same thought of King Saul. And God was greatly displeased, and he suffered loss. Let's not behave in a way that brings judgment and loss, but let's behave trusting God, that will produce his fruitfulness in our mitts. First Timothy, and chapter three, it begins.

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The word is faithful, some Bibles, a faithful word. And what this is saying its introduce this is trustworthy, you can depend upon what Paul is writing to Timothy, for the well being of a local congregation. So what we're seeing is a faithful word. Second part of verse one. If someone it's in the masculine by the way, if someone and overseer aspires spires, so there's a position overseer, it's similar to a pastor, he may be leading one congregation or overseeing a few. But if someone aspires to this position, it says here, a good work he desires, this is a good thing to do. It's an important, but just because he aspires to this, just because he desires that, that doesn't mean put him in because he wants it. There are qualifications. Now let's move to verse two. Therefore, and actually, the first word in verse two is the word de. In Greek, it means something which is absolutely necessary, something that is an absolute must, it cannot be changed or altered, a very significant word. So the word therefore, which we perceive first in English, is actually the second word in the Greek texts. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary. The overseer, to be beyond reproach. What does that mean? It means that there's not something in his life, that that stands out in a negative in an adverse way that his name is mentioned. And immediately everyone thinks about this failure in his life, this this action that he did or didn't do, something that took place that really scars, and in an almost unrepairable way, this man's reputation. So it says, it's absolutely necessary, therefore, that the overseer, be beyond reproach. And then what else? Well, overseer who serves men serve as overseers and therefore they need to be men of one woman. Now, this is also something that's highly debated. And let me say that I have some close friends that have been divorced and serve as pastors. I love these men. They are godly men, but we disagree on this issue. So I'm not here to tell you what other people believe how other people look at this scripture. I have to study the Scripture. Pray through the Scripture, and wait and see what God puts upon my heart. Let me just be very clear. When I look at the Scripture,

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it tells me that someone who has been divorce ought not serve in this position. When it says men have one woman It means a man who has not been diverse, that does not have multiple marriages in his history to is a multiple. Now people always say, Well, what if that first marriage happened before he was a believer? Is there any scripture that says that if it happened before he came to faith, and it's okay, it doesn't count. I know of any. I don't know of any that that says that. So we can't create situations that the Bible does not speak to. So it speaks about marriage. And we know marriage is a covenant someone who has been faithful in that covenant of marriage, it is vital, it is an absolute requirement. This is how I see the texts. Now, also, we hear people wanting to, to put other spins and such on this verse. But But marriage and not just marriage, but we're going to see the children in the house in general, are all something that needs to be scrutinize, remember something a priests, he could not be a priests, if he married a divorced woman, there were very strict rules in regard to who he could marry. So this has a foundation a parallel in the Torah, as well look some time at Leviticus, Leviticus chapter 21. So he says here, therefore, it's necessary, that an overseer that this one be beyond reproach, and a one woman, man, man is plural here, because we're talking about men who are overseers, but a one woman, man, doesn't matter. If if something unfairly happened to him, that he's innocent, I have a good friend that that that's exactly his situation, that that to no fault of himself. His wife even testified before the congregation that he's a good husband, but she is out. She didn't want to continue the marriage, she found someone else she left. He said, Well, isn't that unfair, that that

adversely affects him? Well, let me share with you. Sin adversely affects innocent people. But there's consequences marriage is important. And that marriage is one of the requirements for serving in such a position. So a one woman man, and then the next word, is a word for for being intoxicated. So it says he ought not ever be intoxicated.

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And then it says, sound mind this is someone who thinks thoroughly. Now thinking thoroughly implies according to God's instruction, his counsel, don't make rash decisions, don't make decisions based upon simply what's popular, what's convenient, what is conducive for what you want, what you think is going to be best. Don't ever make decisions from your vantage point, make them from the vantage point of God, seek his mind, seek his perspective, and then make sound decisions. And he says that someone should be in the next word, is the word fitting or appropriate, meaning that that when someone sees and knows this person, they would say, Yes, I can see that he is fit for that position, that this is an appropriate candidate for for this call, knowing the requirements, and then also a lover of strangers, many imply that this is showing hospitality to to those passing through a reason for this, so that he can be effect a testimony to these people. They come through, let them spend a day or two there, so that he needs to be hospitable. And then it says, app to teach because foundationally we'll see this towards the end of our study. That a an overseer, a leader, back the term, Pastor, usually his pastor, teacher, not just a shepherd, but a shepherd that can handle God's word. So app to teach. Look at verse three. Now it said that a overseer should not be intoxicated. Here it says and not given over. meaning not influence, not run over by wine meaning that alcohol doesn't rule his life doesn't lead him in any decisions whatsoever. Now, let me say, from my perspective, I think it's better never, ever, ever to drink. But here admonition not to be intoxicated. Not it says, someone who's given over to wine, and not a striker meaning not a violent person. And not someone who is is greedy, meaning someone who seeks all the time profit. That's what what he's concerned about. But rather, it says that this one should be gentle meaning this he is not someone who is easily found in conflict. That is just waiting to argue. So it says that he's gentle. The next word, it's taking something which is related to conflict. And it says he's not in that way. So he's gentle, he's not easily in conflict. And then it says, and not a lover of money. He's not greedy, he's not seeking profit, and he doesn't love money, and the implication is, nor the things that that money can provide. Why? Because if that's his character, then he is going to start ruling in the local assembly, in order to earn profit, what is going to give me the most the most wealth, the most resources, the most possessions, and he's going to be easily manipulated by people and the enemy so it says, not a lover of money. Look now to verse four. Now we're getting into his home life, how important that is where it says his own home literally one's own horn home, it's not in the masculine in in his that proven out his but one's own house, well, administrating, standing before overseeing that that house his own home. It says doing so well. And having children in submissiveness with all notice this with all seriousness. Now that word seriousness, some Bible say honor, probably because it's close to children, we know that children's most honored their parents, but it's not the normal word for honor. It's a word for for being serious, looking at a situation and understanding the value of that situation, what's going on. Putting a proper value having a proper respect for this, this issue. And since we're talking about, about the home, family is very important. So it's having children he says here, having children in submissiveness with all seriousness, why? Because if a certain one here again, it's a male, if a certain one, one's own house, he does not know how to stand before meaning administer how the congregation of God will be careful. So this is something that needs to be done to

investigate. Does he rule his house properly? Does he have respect of his children? Do they exemplify a testimony as well for the faith being able to see this as serious as important of great value? This is what it's saying. And now look, if you would to to verse six word says, still in these qualifications of an overseer, not a novice, in order that not puffed up. And why would it be puffed up? Well, pride, and the Bible says pride comes before a fall, meaning that he's going to be judge. So it says, not a novice in order that not puffed up pride for judgment, that he falls before the devil. Meaning that he doesn't allow that diabolical one that cheater that liar because of his pride, to get a foothold in his life, a stronghold in his life, where he can manipulate him and bring him to judgment. to shame to failure to having an ungodly testimony, and bring bring contempt upon that, that local assembly, verse seven. But here's the same word again. But it is necessary, that same absolute must. But it's necessary him also a good testimony to have from the ones outside. So not just among other believers, fellow believers but also people from the outside, respect to meaning outside the believing community, outside the local congregations, those who are not believers still see him as a leader sees him as a quality individual, someone that that they would respect someone that they could could see as serving in some spiritual leadership in a local community. So it's necessary, him also a good testimony to have to the ones outside in order that without reproach

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many not into reproach, that he should fall, nor into the snare, or the trap of the devil. So choose someone who also knows how to demonstrate his faith outside, someone who's not a novice, someone who has a proper reputation, in order that for reproach, he does not fall, meaning that that scheme of the enemy. And then we see, look down to verse eight. deacons likewise, now we dealt with that position of leader, an overseer of a local congregation or perhaps a few. But now a deacon Deacon is just a Greek word which means servant, but a recognized servant, a servant leader, says deacons, likewise, and here's that same word, to be serious minded, to put a proper value, a proper understanding upon what, what this this work is all about. And we're gonna see a very important word in a moment. So it says, Dickens, likewise, to be serious, and not. And then we have the word, double tongue. Now, this is speaking about one that says one thing to one person, and something else to another. And the reason why he does this is because he's a man pleaser. He's trying to do things and I'll say, whatever, in order that it works out good for him. He's not concerned about God, or you would follow the instructions of God. And this is a very important principle. Those who want to please God are going to take seriously God's instruction. They're not going to look for an excuse, a rationale, something in order to compromise what God says they're going to understand it and they're going to err upon the side of of that which is is most likely, most restrictive. We don't want to go too far. The other side why, if we do we compromise, so it's better to err on the restrictive side rather than on the liberal side. So it says, Diggins, likewise be sensible, not double tongue, not given too much wine, but it says also not. And here's that same word for being greedy, or seeking profit. Don't be someone who gets into this position in order to profit. That's not what it's about. This is not If you do, you will be manipulated by the enemy. It will begin to compromise your your theology, your convictions, you'll find yourself in doubt, and you'll do things because you want to please others, because they you believe are the source of blessings not God. So such a person. It says here cannot be be greedy. A person who is seeking profit verse nine But what should they do? Says, holding the mystery of faith in a clean conscience. Now a clean conscience is that which has not been corrupted by the enemy, what corrupts our conscience lies, falsehood, that which is in conflict with the Word of God, poor theology will corrupt your

conscience. So it says here, that we need to be individuals very clearly holding the mystery of faith with a clean conscience, and such people now verse 10, but also those those who have all of these qualifications, it says, also those

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Let them prove themselves first, let them have a a testimony, a historical testimony, that they meet these qualifications and they live out their faith, that that mystery of faithfulness without, without compromise. So it says, and, and these ones, let them document prove themselves first, then let them serve, been without spot. Now this expression without spot or blameless, as some Bibles translated, has to do with an animal that's going to be offered up at the altar. And this animal goes through an inspection. It is so significant that this word appears here. So it's just going along with the whole idea, Let them prove themselves. First, let them have a reputation, a history, a testimony, we might say, a track record of a proven commitment to the Lord, demonstrating those qualities of being a godly leader, then let them serve. So he says, doing so without spot blamelessly verse, verse 11. Now in verse 11, we have the term for women. Now in Greek. There's not a special term for wife. Just like in Hebrew, we have the word Isha woman, and it can mean wife. It depends upon the context. Here, we're talking about a wife, the context demands, this word says, look again at at verse, verse 11. Wives likewise, be serious, that serious mindedness be serious. Not slanders, meaning, if there is a an overseer, a deacon, and their wives tend to slander what is that? It is to speak in a way that ad virtually characterizes someone else, whether it's necessary or not, whether it's true or not, we ought to strive to stay away from that, not to speak in such terms, not to slander someone. So it says here, Wives, likewise, be be serious minded, not slanders, and use that same word, not intoxicated, but faithful in all things, very important. She too, has to have a testimony in order for her husband to be selected in this position, verse 12. It says, deacons lead let them be that same qualification for an overseer. A one woman men let Diggins be one woman, men. And again, same thing. In my opinion, divorce means that one cannot serve as a pastor as a deacon as an overseer. One woman, man, also insane children, administering serving them well. And one's own household. So very similar to what we see that he's supposed to have have leadership in a proper way over his house. sold his children as well. First 13. For the ones who serve well, the ones having served well. It says they acquire for themselves a high or a good rank. Now this is words similar to military, you have different ranks, whether you're a sergeant or captain or a colonel or general, it's it's moves up, and we should mature. And as we fulfill one role, we can move on to one that has greater responsibility, greater potential or such. So it says here

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for the ones who have served well, after serving well, they acquire for themselves, a good degree, a good ranking. And much confidence in faith in Messiah, your shoe. Now, this last part of that verse, is really special. Because what it's saying is this, as you serve well, you are going to move up, God is going to give you greater assignments, more responsibility, more more resources to carry them out, you're going to be used greater by the Lord. And this is going to mature you being confident, confident in the faith, confident in Messiah, why those two things confident that faith, confident, and Messiah, what's tell us, we realize, it's all about him. It's his provision, his presence. So we grow. And faith is not just what I believe. But faith becomes your shoe. Him in our life rule in our life, and ministry in our life, he becomes more and more, this is what John the Baptist was saying, I must become less, I must grow in the faith, meaning he must become more in my life, I'm lost in him. That's what we're supposed to be

less and less, him more and more. Verse 14. Now we're coming to the conclusion of this, this chapter. And he's going to, to finish with some some words of of personal condolences to them meaning this, he knows that they're sad about something. And he's writing primarily to Timothy, but it's going to be shared within the congregation. And he said before, I want to come and visit. But notice when he says these things to you, I write why I had hope, hoping to come to you quickly. This means soon right away. But if delayed, and this can be sense being delayed, he's not getting there. He wants him to know something. So he writes, in order that they should know how it's necessary to behave in the house of God. Now, I would underscore this because we're coming on something very, very important. Paul saying, Timothy, I wanted to come I wanted to come soon, quickly to you. But if delayed, I'm writing you these things. Because I want you to know how to conduct yourself how to behave in God's house, which is now God's house, what's he referring to? He says, hold this esteemed a place yet they owe zone to us. Which means, which is

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the church of the living God, so uses that same word ecclesia, this place where those who have been called out assemble, where they worship God, where they study God's Word, where they come together to serve God, by having an influence in the local congregation. So he says, I want you to know how to conduct things yourself and all things in the house of God. And I want you to know that this house of God that I'm referring to is this this local assembly. This this house of the living God, the church, and then he goes on And he says this referring to the local congregation. It is a pillar. And foundation some Bibles will say, base. It is a pillar and foundation of truth. Now in my Bible, I highlighted that, put an asterisk by it, because it's so important. Paul wants us to know, it's a pillar. It's the foundation of truth. If we don't hold fast to the truth of God in the local assembling, the world's not going to have a pillar and foundation, nothing's going to be built. So that's why it's so important that we affirm God's truth and do not compromise His truth. I received more responses by email, concerning last week's message concerning women being preachers and teachers over men. And so many of them gave a rationale based upon human conjecture, based upon what seemed right, in their own eyes. Never do they speak about the truth of God. This is what is the pillar and the foundation of God's activity in this world, do not violate it. Be faithful to it, be obedient to it. I don't want to go before God. See everyone, every believer, it's necessary that we go before the Bema Seat of Messiah. We learned that in our study of Corinthians. And I don't want to go there. And God say, Did you support this position? Yeah, I did. Well, did you read the Scripture? Oh, yeah. What do you think it means? Well, I thought it meant this. So why didn't you stay tuned for that? I don't want to be someone who goes before God. Compromise, saying I knew one thing, but I was too weak. I was too much in love with, with financial things with with the physical, that I diverted myself, from what you placed upon my heart. See, what you have to have, is a fear of God. And I believe that a real tactic of the enemy is to just not speak much about the judgment of God, so we don't think about it. And we do what we want. Very, very, very foolish foolishness. Indeed, we need to understand God's word is very clear. And it's always those who want to twist but say, Yes, but what if this and that, and different times we're living all these things, heard them all. But they're not going to move me from what I read in the texts, because this is the work of the living God. Look now to verse 16, our last verse, and, and this next word has to do with having made a confession. So a confession has been been stated. It's known. And therefore he says, and confessed. It's a known fact. In other words, that great is the mystery of godliness. Now, why do you think now all times, Paul says that

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it needs to be confessed by everyone you need to acknowledge this. That great is the mystery of and this word can mean a strict piety. Many Bibles translated godliness, but it's one who is very, very concerned about strain to the right or to the left of way from what God says, you know, I am more concerned with God's view of me, then what you may think of me or anyone else, because you're not my judge. I'm not your judge. The name Daniel reminds us, God is my judge, I have to give an account to him. And therefore I want to err on the side of caution, saying, you know, it says this. And you know, that's how I thought it meant, and therefore I was faithful to what the Spirit of God gave me, I didn't compromise. So he says here, great, and the word is mega great is the mystery of godliness. And what do we see here? Well, this is kind of a benediction. It's kind of a, a statement of, of wonder. He says, God was manifested in the flesh, very important. Someone says, you know, the Bible doesn't speak about the divinity of, of Messiah, really? Well, what do you do with this? God was manifested in the flesh. And we're gonna say he's talking about you, sure. But Jesus here, he says, God was manifested in the flesh, and we have justified in the Spirit, what do you mean justify? Well, here it's talking about, God proved demonstrated, that Messiah, everything he did was righteous. This is a reference to the Spirit of God, coming upon your shoe, his dead body, and raising Him from the dead. Now, his spirit never died, a spirit never dies, meaning doesn't cease. It goes to one of two locations. Now we won't go into the time prior to this and Shoal and Abraham's bosom and, and getting GNOME or, or hell, but it speaks here, that God manifested himself in the flesh. And he was declared righteous, this one who was manifest in the flesh, you're sure he was justified in the spirit, referring to the resurrection, God's confirmation.

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He was seen by your Bible says angels, which is fine, may be angels. In that sense, it may be the word angel can mean a messenger. Those are apostles. So it could be those servant messengers that that saw him. And what did they do? They proclaimed him among the nations. And he was believed in the world throughout the world. And ultimately, we know something speaks about Messiah, the Incarnation, his crucifixion, His resurrection, at the end, it speaks about simply and he ascended, was ascended in glory. Now, I don't know about you. But I believe that I believe that you show is indeed, God, when He walked upon this world, God in the flesh. I believe that that God demonstrated in the resurrection, that he received everything that Messiah did. He rose from the dead, to signify, he is the Son of the living God. There was a witness testified who saw him alive, resurrected from the dead, they proclaimed among the nation's, and he was believed throughout the world. And of course, God received him back into heaven through the ascension. So important. I asked you, are you going to serve this one? Have you accepted this one? Have you given your life to this one, in order that whatever he wants from you, you want to do? You want to submit to that this is your utmost desire. I'm gonna close with this. A friend of our family, he passed away due to Corona, he was 73. We served together. And he wasn't all that much older than me. But but his opportunity to serve God here has ended. He's in the kingdom of heaven right now. And I want to be mindful that the time we have, it may be short. We want to utilize the opportunity and we want to be found faithful followers. We want to do the instructions of God. We don't want to debate these things. We want to receive them for what God reveals clearly in his word. We want to implement them and have that testimony, a testimony with that clean conscience. This is

my heart's desire, and I trust it's yours as well. Well, until next week, when we gather together once more. May God bless you, Shalom from Israel.