

7/15/01

ITimothy 3

Paul the apostle has given to Timothy his charge regarding sound doctrine in chapter one, and prayer in chapter two.

Now he moves on to give him his charge regarding church officers in chapter three which deals with the leadership of men in the church as a bishop and the requirements for a bishop as well as deacons.

Keep in mind that Paul is not so interested in performance, but in character.

3:1 The office of a bishop.

- 1) This is a faithful saying, second of five.
1Tim.15; 3:1; 4:9; 2Tim. 2:11; Tit. 3:8
 - This particular text is referring to what follows, the office of a bishop not what preceded it.
- 2) The word bishop “episkopos” describes the office and function of an overseer or superintendent, describing the basic responsibility of the office.
 - a) The bishops “opeskopos” originally meant a foreman of a construction gang.
 - 1)) Bishops were usually elders and are used synonymously. Tit. 1:5,7, 1Pet. 5:1,2

- 2)) These are the two church offices given in apart from Pastor. Phil. 1:1
- b) The term elder “presbuteros” means men of age, elderly identifies the man of age and women. ITim. 4:14; 1Tim. 5:2
 - 1)) Elder of Ephesus through and by the Holy Spirit were made overseers of the church of God. Acts 20:17, 28
 - 2)) Paul ordained elders in every church in the first missionary journey. Acts 14:23
 - 3)) The Pastor, a shepherd, a minister, etc. are each a bishop and elder.
- 2) The office should be a pursuit and passion.
 - a) The word desires “orgeomai” means to stretch oneself out, to aspire to lay hold grasp it.
 - b) The second word desires “epithumeo” to set one's heart upon, passion and compulsion.

3:2-7 The qualifications for the office of bishop.

- 3:2-3** *The requirement for a bishop dealing with personal character in life.*
- 3:2** The positive particulars.
- 1) Blameless means above reproach, unrebukable by not being able to lay hold of evidence to accuse him. 1Tim. 6:14

- a) This does not mean perfection but obedient to sanctification..
 - b) This state of blameless is believed to be the heading for all that follow, in other words all the requirements describe how and where the bishop is to be blameless.
- 2) Husband of one wife, literally a one-woman man.
- a) Robertson says, one at a time.
 - b) Wuest says, bigamy but most scholars do not believe bigamy was a problem in Ephesus, there is certainly no evidence of it in the New Testament.
 - c) Some have said that a bishop could not be divorced, but married once only but this was practiced by son of the church fathers due to their ascetic life-style, not that it is scriptural.
 - d) Paul didn't forbid remarriage. Rom. 7:2-3; 1Cor. 7; 1Tim. 5:14
- 3) Temperate “nephaios” to be calm and clear-headed, opposed to every kind of fuzziness, literally it means wineless in a metaphorical sense. 1Tim. 3:2, 11; Tit. 2:2
- 4) Sober-minded “sophron” means self-control, disciplined, serious and prudent, recognizing one’s responsibility. Tit. 1:8; 2:2, 5

- 5) Good behavior “kosmios” in it’s root means orderly outward life as a reflection of inner stability. 1Tim. 2:9
- 6) Given to hospitality “philaxenos” love of strangers, literally a friend of strangers.
- a) We are to be given to hospitality. Rom. 12:13
 - b) A lover of hospitality. Tit. 1: 8
 - c) Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Heb. 13:2
 - d) Use hospitality one to another without grudging. 1Pet. 4:9
 - e) Brethren travelling. 3Jn. 5
- 7) Able to teach “didaktikos”, having teaching ability to explain doctrine and oppose error. 1Tim. 5:17; 2Tim. 2:2, 24; Tit. 1: 9
- 3:3** The negative particulars.
- 8) Not given to wine “paroinos” means one who lingers. Gen. 9:20-23; Lev. 10:1-10; Prov. 23:29-30; 20:1; Tit. 1:7
- 9) Not violent “plekten” means not a giver of blows or one who strikes people, being quarrelsome, quick tempered. Tit. 1:7
- 10) Not greedy for money “aiskrokerdees” means filthy or shameful gain, ones whose motive of life is money. 1Tim. 3:8; Titus I:7

* One of the sins of the false teachers.

1Tim. 6:5-10

11) But gentle “epieikes”, reasonable and equitable. Not quarrelsome “arnachos” in other words a brawler or trouble maker who is contentious. Phil. 4:5; Tit. 3:2; Ja. 3:17; 1Pet. 2:18

12) Not covetous “aphilarguros” means one who is longing for things, the sin of idolatry. Col. 3:5

* 10th commandment.

3:4-5 *The requirements for a bishop dealing with personal family life.*

13) One who rules his own house well.

a) The word rules “proistemi” means to superintend, preside over and manage.

b) He is to do it well “kalos” or beautiful, excellently.

14) One who has his children in submission and obedient, under God' s order.

* With all reverence or dignity, honesty referring to the children. Eph. 5:18-6:2?

3:5 The reason, the home is the testing ground.

1) The management of his own home will be a carry-over value to the house of God.

2) The inability to runs one’s own home will be duplicated in the house of God.

* The word care “epimelomai” is a broad term to resolve crucial matters and decision making for the good of the whole.

3:6 The requirements for a bishop dealing with personal experience in his spiritual life.

15) Not a novice “neophutos”, one newly planted is the idea.

a) Lest being puffed up with pride, blind by conceit.

b) He falls into the same condemnation or judgement as the devil, being the objective genitive. Is. 14

3:7 The requirements for a bishop dealing with personal reputation in life.

16) Good testimony among those who are outside.

a) The reference to “those outside” are the unbelievers. 1Thess. 4:12; Col. 4:5

b) The reason is that he might not fall into reproach to those outside the church which is the devils snare for them, being the subjective genitive. 2Cor. 4:4; 1Pet. 5:8

3:8-12 **The requirements for deacons.**

3:8 The particulars of conduct.

- 1) Likewise must the deacons must be reverent, having dignity and earnest purpose..
 - a) A deacons “diakonos” means to run errands, serve tables, servant office
 - * Only in Timothy and Philippians is it used as an office. Phi. 1:1; 1Tim. 8
 - b) Jesus said, Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; same word. Matt. 20:26b
 - c) Paul calls himself a “deacon of Christ”. 2Cor. 11:23; 4:1; Rom. 11:13
 - d) Their first appearance of deacons could be in Acts though they are not identified as such. Acts 6:1-6
 - 1) The word ministration is “diakonia”, the same root word. vs. 1
 - 2) The phrase serve tables. vs. 2b
 - 3) Their qualifications were to be men of honest report, full of Holy Spirit and wisdom, appointed. vs. 3
- 2) Reverent not only in action but in thought and attitude and is translated noble in Philippians. Phil. 4:8
- 3) Not doubletongued “dilogos” means to say one thing to one person and a

- different thing to another, demonstrating inconsistency and contradiction.
- a) The word appears only this time in the New Testament.
 - b) Some translated gossip but that is different.
- 4) Not given to much wine “prosecho”, not to linger or be addicted to wine.
 - a) It had medicinal purposes. 1Tim. 5:23
 - b) The common drink was diluted in purify the water.
 - 5) Not greedy for money or filthy lucre as the bishop.
 - a) Balaam Num. 22-24, Gahazi 2Kings 5, Judas.
 - b) Not for dishonest gain, but of a ready mind. 1Pet. 5:2
 - c) This was the false teachers motive. 1Tim. 6:5, 9-10; Tit. 1:7, 11
- 3:9** The particulars of faith.
- 6) Holding the mystery of the faith in good conscience.
 - a) Mystery “musterion” means something previously hidden but now revealed, Rom. 16:25; Eph. 3:4; Col. 1:26; 4:3
 - b) The faith refers to the gospel and doctrine of Christianity.

- c) With a pure conscience, one who is not full of hypocrisy. 1Tim. 1:5, 19; 4:2; 2Tim. 1:3; Tit. 1:15
 * The deacon is not required to teach but is to do so by his life.

3:10 The deacons are to be tried men.

- 7) They are to be tested “dokimazo” means to be put to the test and approved, life and conduct.
 a) It is used to test metals.
 b) It would reveal the impurities of the metal.
 c) Then they can use the office of deacon. 1Tim. 5:22, 24
 d) Found blameless refers to not being able to be accused, having passed the test.

3:11 The particulars for women.

- a) At this point some interpret this to be the wives of the deacon and others to deaconesses, like Phoebe. Rom.16:1
 * The word in the New Testament is always in the masculine even in reference to women like Pheobe.
 b) We cannot overlook the importance of making application to the wives of deacons to be reverent in conduct as credentials for serving as a deacon.
 8) Reverent is honest as in verse eight.

- 9) Not slanderers “diablos” refers to malicious gossips.
 * This often is used to describe Satan, they are not to be “she devils”. Ja. 3; Rev. 12:9-10
 10) Temperate, meaning vigilant, circumspect, showing control or moderation in wine.
 11) Faithful in all things meaning trustworthy and reliable.

3:12 Ongoing requirements for deacons.

- 12) Husband of one wife, a one woman man as the bishops.
 13) Ruling or superintending, preside over his own house.
 14) The manner is to be well, beautiful, excellent as in verse four.

3:13 **Two benefits of the deacon office.**

- 1) They obtain a good standing.
 a) By example before God.
 b) By example before he congregation.
 2) Great boldness “parresia” confidence in their speech in the faith.
 a) Able to serve and speak with authority by the enabling of Jesus Christ of his personal faith.
 b) Such as Stephen, Philip and others.

3:14-16 **Paul's reasons for writing.**

3:14 Paul's expectation.

- 1) Paul planned to come shortly.
- 2) Paul had gone into Macedonia. 1Tim. 1:3

3:15 Paul's anticipation.

- 1) If he was delayed, he was reminding Timothy of how he and others ought to conduct themselves in God's house of God. 1Tim. 3:4; 5:12
* Not that he didn't know it!
- 2) The identity of the house of God.
 - a) The church of living God opposed to dead gods of paganism. 1Tim. 1:17; 6:16
 - 1) The word church "eklesea" means those called out, an assembly.
 - 2) The church is the abiding place of the family of God, the community of God's redeemed.
 - b) The pillar and ground of the truth.
 - 1) The church is the pillar and foundation of God's revelation which is true and is strong and stable unable to fall or be destroyed.
 - 2) The temple of Diana was the seventh wonder of the world having 127 pillars with jewels and gold.

3:16 Mystery of godliness.

- 1) This is believed to be an early church hymn by some, the article is present "the godliness".
- 2) God manifested in the flesh. Jn. 1-1,14; Col. 1:15; Heb. 1:3; Phil. 2:5-11; Gal. 4:4; Is. 64:1
 - a) Some manuscripts have "Who" rather than God.
 - b) Jesus pre-existence is implied.
 - c) In likeness of sinful flesh. Rom. 8:3
- 3) Justified in the Spirit or vindicated.
 - a) Baptism, Mt. transfiguration, etc.
 - b) Conceived of Holy Spirit.
 - c) Resurrected by the Holy Spirit. Rom. 1:4
- 4) Seen of angels.
 - a) At His birth.
 - b) At His temptation.
 - c) At His resurrection and ascension.
- 5) Preached among the Gentiles.
 - a) The world of paganism.
 - b) Go and preach to all nations. Matt. 28:19-20
- 6) Believed on in the world.
 - a) For salvation. 1Tim. 1:15-17
 - b) Disciples, 3,000 Pentecost. Acts 4:12
- 7) Received up in glory.
 - a) His exaltation after the resurrection.
 - b) At right hand of God. Acts 1:2, 9