

1 Timothy 3

Love and Truth

I. Qualifications of Overseer/Elder/Bishop

- **Qualifications for a Bishop:** Elder

1 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.

Faithful saying... You can take this to the bank

- Desiring the position of church elder is desiring a **"good work"**
 1. Beautiful, handsome, excellent, important, choice, surpassing, precious, useful, commendable, admirable work

Elders oversee the Spiritual needs of the congregation. Spiritual protectors

- **Duties of an Elder are a good work...**
- **Duties of an Elder are not ...**
 1. Easy
 2. Without conflict
 3. Relaxing or...
 4. Stress free work...but good and rewarding work when done correctly

We are to desire the work...not the title. Being an Elder is work!

"What is the use of a lazy minister? He is no good either to the world, to the Church, or to himself. He is a dishonor to the noblest profession that can be bestowed upon the sons of men." [Spurgeon]

- **Bishop/Elder:** gr. *Episcope*; i.e. overseer, watcher, shepherd
 1. **Investigate** Spiritual matters within the church discernment
 - a) Is it Biblical?
 - b) Is it Truthful?
 - c) Is it Spirit led?
 2. **Inspect** Church Ministries
 - a) Pray
 - b) Accept proposals for ministry
 - c) Encourage/Correct
 3. **Visit**
 - a) Sick
 - b) Elderly
 - c) Hurting

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach...

- **Desire only the first qualification:**

1. **Blameless:** Not sinless. Other cannot "lay hold of" fault
 - a) Observable righteous behavior
 - b) Walk the walk not mere talk
2. **Husband of one wife** [NOTE: Elders are men]
 - a) Does not mean that he has to be married
 - b) Does not mean cannot be divorced if on biblical grounds

An Elder must be a **"One-woman man"** Affections/heart directed & given to one woman

3. **Temperate:** Abstaining from wine entirely or at least from excessive use
4. **Sober-minded:** Self-controlled and of sound mind

"This does not mean he has no sense of humor, or that he is always solemn and somber. Rather it suggests that he knows the value of things and does not cheapen the ministry or the Gospel message by foolish behavior." [Wiersbe]

5. **Good behavior:** Well-ordered modest lifestyle
6. **Hospitable:** Generous to guests; love to open their home to others
7. **Able to teach:** Apt and skillful in teaching the Word of God
 - a) Know the Word
 - b) Know where or how to find answers in the Word

3 not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous...

- **More qualifications for Elders:**

1. **Not given to wine:** Not a slave to wine; i.e. always needing a drink
2. **Not greedy for money:** KJV ...not greedy for *filthy lucre*
3. **Gentle:** Patient, fair, mild. E.g. Jesus meek and mild as our example
4. **Not quarrelsome:** [brawler] Not looking to start fights; cause contention
5. **Not covetous:** Not discontent and wanting more. Having right motives...

Eternal Reward given to us personally by Jesus for doing the job right!

1 Peter 5:1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: [I exhort, urge to press on] **2** Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, **not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;** **3** nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; **4** and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

4 [An Elder must be] one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence

- **Even more qualifications for Elders of the Church of God**

1. **Rules his house well:** Unrelenting Maintenance, Protector, Superintendent
 - a) Good Spiritual leader to wife and children

2. **Submissive/Reverent children:** Obedient and respectful to parents

It is true that a child may rebel from even a good home; but is the rebellion because of the parents or in spite of their job as parents? This is the question that must be asked. [Guzic]

- Children must be respect the candidate for Elder of the church of God...

5 (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?)...

- **Church:** gr. *ekklēsia* Gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place, an assembly

6 [A candidate for Elder must not be a] novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.

- **Not** a new believer rationale:
 1. **Pride:**
 - a) Clouded thinking leading to high-mindedness
 - b) Wrapped up in the moment
 - c) Pride leading to...
 2. **Condemnation:** Judgment of the devil; i.e. usurping God's rightful place

"I will ascend to the Most High" PR-I-DE

- **CCY:** 6 month rule

7 Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

- **Good testimony/report;** i.e. Thought of well by those outside the church
 1. "They don't have any dirt on the candidate"
 2. If there is something hidden it will be revealed and candidate will...
- **Fall into:**
 1. **Reproach of devil:** Attack of the devil
 2. **Snare of the devil:** Unexpected trap; caught unaware by Satan's schemes
- **Devil already mentioned 3 Times in verses 1-7**
 1. Condemnation of the devil
 2. Reproach of devil
 3. Snare of the devil

Leadership is a good work but also a very dangerous work; i.e. constant attack

- **Because of this Elders are not chosen by men... but the Holy Spirit:**

Acts 20:27 ...I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the **Holy Spirit has made you overseers**, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. Taken for granted in light of full council of Scripture...

- **Elders:**

1. Not chosen at random
2. Not chosen because they volunteer
3. Not chose because they are natural leaders

Going to seminary doesn't make one qualified for spiritual leadership. Being a good talker doesn't make one qualified for spiritual leadership. Natural or spiritual gifts in themselves do not qualify one for spiritual leadership. What one gives in money or volunteer time does not qualify them for spiritual leadership. What qualifies a man for spiritual leadership is godly character - and godly character established according to these clear criteria. [Guzic]

- **Called by God:**

1. Appointed by God
2. Anointed by Holy Spirit
3. **Elders/Pastors** are men [Husband of one wife]
4. Men who know how to War in the Spiritual realm
5. Men who:
 - a. Know how/when to administer Church discipline
 - b. Are courageous enough to follow through with Church discipline

SUMMARY Qualifications of Overseers over the Spiritual

II. Qualifications of Deacons

- **Deacons:** gr. *diakonos* executes commands of another, servant, attendant, minister

1. Cares for the poor
2. Oversees distribution of physical needs
3. Lit. Waiter i.e. one who serves food and drink

Deacons oversee the physical needs of the congregation [not neglecting the Spiritual]

8 Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money...

- **Qualification's for Deacons**

1. **Reverent:** Good character, honorable
2. **Not double-Tongued:** gr. *dilogos*
 - a) Saying the same thing twice, repeating
 - b) Saying one thing with one person another with another
 - c) With the intent to deceive
3. Not given to much wine
4. Not greedy for money

9 holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.

- Holding to the **"Mystery of the faith"** with a Pure conscience
 1. Proper doctrine combined with sincere conviction from study of the Word

10 But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless.

- **Deacons:**

1. **Tested:** Proved, test, examine, scrutinize to see if genuine, right motives
2. **Found Blameless:** Not sinless but fault cannot be "laid hold of" v2

Passing grade? Blameless...then let them serve as deacons

11 Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.

- **Deacons wives**

1. **Reverent:** Venerated for character, honorable
2. **Not slanderers:** False accusers
3. **Temperate:** Sober; i.e. abstaining from wine at least from its excessive use
4. **Faithful in ALL things:** All aspects of home/church/family

Deacon's wives must have Integrity: Doing what they say you are going to do

12 Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

- **Further qualifications for Deacons** of the Church of God

1. **Husbands of one wife** [NOTE: Deacons are men]
2. **Rule their children and households** well [gr. *Oikos*; i.e. dwelling]
 - a) Rules household well: Maintenance, Protector, Superintendent
 - b) Submissive/Reverent children: Obedient and respectful to parents

13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

- Deacons who finish well gain...

1. **Good standing:** Degree of dignity and wholesome influence in the church
2. **Great boldness in faith:** Freedom/confidence in faith. Solid foundation

When we physically serve the congregation we walk where Jesus walked

God remembers their faithful service, even in tasks which some would consider menial. There is little doubt that you will see more deacons with a great reward than bishops or pastors. [Guzic]

14 These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; 15 but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Tim,

Not sure if I will see you soon so I wrote these Instructions for Elders/Deacons...

- How to conduct yourselves in the **house of God** [gr. *Oikos*; i.e. dwelling]
 1. **Pillar of Truth:** gr. *Stylos* i.e. Support
 2. **Ground of Truth:** Firm immovable foundation into which the pillar is set

Church: Where members are equipped to go and do God's work

SUMMARY Qualifications of Deacons Overseers over physical needs of the congregation

III. Mystery of Jesus

1 Timothy 3:16 ...without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

- Gospel message in one verse; e.g. John 3:16
- Original language suggests this was a Hymn sung by the early church?

God was manifested in the flesh

John 1:14 [The Word was God] ...And the **Word became flesh** and dwelt among us...

- God was manifested in the flesh and the His chosen people missed it...

Luke 19:41 Now as [Jesus] drew near, He saw [Jerusalem] and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you **did not know the time of your visitation.**"

Jesus was justified in the Spirit

- **Justified:** To declare, pronounce one to be just and righteous
 1. Jesus was declared righteous by the Spirit **at His baptism**

Matthew 3:16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the **Spirit of God descending** like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, **"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."**

2. Jesus was declared righteous by the Spirit **at/by His resurrection**

Death is the consequence of sin. Jesus did not sin...thus death could not hold Him

1 Peter 3:18 ...Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but **made alive by the Spirit...**

Acts 2:23 [Jesus], being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

- **Jesus was Justified by the Spirit; i.e. Vindicated:** Shown to be true with proof

The Spirit of Truth declared that Jesus sacrifice was completely accepted by the Father on our behalf ...by raising Jesus from the dead. Perfect Sacrifice

- If Jesus was not declared righteous; i.e. did not rise from the dead; **we are doomed**

1 Corinthians 15:17 ...if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!...

Because Jesus was declared righteous at/by His resurrection we will live forever

1 Corinthians 15:20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Because Jesus was declared righteous at/by His resurrection...
...we who are in Christ will also rise again; i.e. there is **Life after Death**

- God was manifested in the flesh; Jesus
- Jesus was justified in the Spirit

Jesus was seen by Angels

- **Seen by angels:** Lit ...with wide-open eyes, as at something remarkable

1. Seen by angels before the world was...

At their creation, the first thing Angels beheld was Jesus

John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

2. Seen by angels at the Incarnation...

The One they had known from their beginning now making Himself known to man by becoming man Himself!

Luke 2:8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with **the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"**

3. Seen by angels during His times of temptation

Matthew 4:11[Temptation] Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and

ministered to Him.

Luke 22:43 [Garden of Gethsemane] Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.

Angels Astonished: Gazing upon the One they worship now in human flesh...

Philippians 2:5...Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

1 Peter 1:12 To [the OT Prophets] it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—**things which angels desire to look into.**

- God was manifested in the flesh
- Jesus was justified in the Spirit
- Jesus was seen by Angels

Jesus was preached to Gentiles/Believed on in the World

- **Jews:** God's Chosen People but...
- **Salvation has always been available to Gentiles:** Adam, Noah, etc.
- **Always been provision for the Gentile "alien" to convert to Judaism**

Exodus 12:37 Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. 38 A **mixed multitude** went up with them also, and flocks and herds—a great deal of livestock.

- Present at the giving of the Law!
- Partakers in presence of God along with the Jews

Converts to Judaism did so willingly

The Hebrew language lacks an exact equivalent to the Greek noun proselyte, which means a newcomer (Strong's #4339). However, in the Old Testament, God's law does allow the ger (Strong's #1616), usually rendered "stranger," to become a full-fledged citizen of Israel. To do this, he needed to become circumcised. Exodus 12:48 addresses this changing of belief system in reference to the Passover.

Exodus 12:48 And when a stranger dwells with you and **wants to** keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it. 49 One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you."

The stranger "wants to keep the Passover." There is no hint of God expecting Israel to seek converts among the heathen by actively preaching to—or, at—them. Here, there is no coercion, subtle or otherwise; the Gentile convert voluntarily gives himself to come under the Old Covenant. Deuteronomy 4:5-7 states the dynamics of this conversion. [Charles Whitaker]

- Gentiles **should** have been attracted to Judaism

Deuteronomy 4:5 "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. 6 Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'

- Jews were to reflect God's Greatness/God's wisdom to Nations...**They failed**
 1. Rebelled against God
 2. Turned to idols
 3. Many assimilated/conformed to the world
 4. Others turned relationship with God into self-righteous religion [Jesus day]

- **OT prophesied Gentile Salvation through Jesus**

Isaiah 11:10 "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the **Gentiles shall seek Him**, And His resting place shall be glorious."

Isaiah 42:1 "Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth **justice to the Gentiles**."

Isaiah 60:3 The Gentiles shall **come to your light**, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

- **NOTE:** Repentance was preached to Gentiles in OT by Prophet Jonah in Assyria

1. **Preached Jesus to Gentiles:** Fulfilled in NT

Luke 2:29 [Simeon's blessing at Jesus dedication] "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation 31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, 32 A light to bring **revelation to the Gentiles**, And the glory of Your people Israel."

- **Preaching:** God's method of reaching the world...

"God's way of creating faith in men's hearts is not by pictures, music, or symbols, but by the hearing of the word of God. This may seem a strange thing, and strange let it seem, for it is a mystery, and a great mystery, but a fact beyond all controversy; for ever let the church maintain that Christ is to be preached unto the Gentiles." [Spurgeon]

Isaiah 49:6 "...I will also give You as a **light to the Gentiles**, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth."

- **Jesus came to the Jews first and they did not receive Him...**

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. [Did not know the time of their visitation] 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

- After the Jews accused Jesus of having a demon in Matthew 12 and Mark 3

1. Jesus turns to the Gentiles

2. Begins speaking in parables
3. This separates true believers from make-believers

Mark 4:11 ...to those who are outside [i.e. unbelieving Jews/religious hypocrites], all things come in parables, 12 so that 'Seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand; Lest they should turn, And their sins be forgiven them.'"

- Jesus commanded disciples to preach to Gentiles **before His ascension:**

Matthew 28:18 ... "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Acts 1:8 ...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- Apostles followed Jesus command to preach to Gentiles **after His Ascension:**

Acts 13:47 For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, [Isaiah 49:6] That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'"48 Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

Jesus has been preached to the Gentiles and many have/will be saved until the Fulfillment of the Gentiles is accomplished

- Last Gentile saved during this dispensation ushers in the rapture of the church

Romans 11:25 ...blindness in part has happened to Israel until the **fullness of the Gentiles** has come in. [Rapture] 26 And so all Israel will be saved... [Daniel's 70th Week]

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| ▪ God | Manifested in the flesh |
| ▪ Jesus | Justified in the Spirit |
| ▪ Jesus | Seen by Angels |
| ▪ Jesus | Preached to Gentiles/Believed on in the World |

Jesus was received up in Glory. No debate

- **Jesus finished His work on our behalf before ascending to Heaven...**

Hebrews 1:3 [Jesus] who being the brightness of [God's] glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, **when He had by Himself purged our sins**, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...

- **Work of Jesus:** To destroy Satan's hold on mankind

1 John 3:8b For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

- Jesus finished this work on the cross before His resurrection and ascension...

"He was so received because his work is finished. He would never have gone into his glory if he had not finished all his toil. He would have accepted no reward had he not fully earned it." [Spurgeon]

- Again, Justified **at/by** resurrection, Death could not hold Him
- **Received by the Father:**

Luke 24:50 [Jesus] lifted up His hands and blessed them. 51 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.

- Back to the glory He enjoyed with the Father from Eternity...

John 17:4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

- **Finished the work:** Incarnation, Earthly Ministry, Suffering and Death, Resurrection
- **Finally...** Jesus ascension into Heaven

Coming back the same way!

Acts 1:10 ...while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will **so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.**"

Timothy 3:16 ...without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:

1. God was manifested in the flesh
2. Justified in the Spirit
3. Seen by angels
4. Preached among the Gentiles
5. Believed on in the world
6. Received up in glory.

And will come again...

SUMMARY Mystery of the Triune God:

- **1 Timothy 3:1-15** Qualifications to Serve
- **1 Timothy 3:16** Reasons that we Serve
 1. We serve a Living God worthy of our all!
 2. Great reward when the Chief Shepherd appears