

THIS IS MY BIBLE, I AM WHAT IT SAYS I AM,
I CAN DO WHAT IT SAYS I CAN DO.
I AM A BELIEVER, AND NOT A DOUBTER,
A DOER AND NOT JUST A HEARER, AND
MY LIFE IS THE BETTER AFTER HEARING,
OBEYING, AND APPLYING A
WORD FROM THE LORD.

EXODUS 18:13–14 NIV

¹³ THE NEXT DAY MOSES TOOK HIS SEAT TO SERVE AS JUDGE FOR THE PEOPLE, AND THEY STOOD AROUND HIM FROM MORNING TILL EVENING.

¹⁴ WHEN HIS FATHER-IN-LAW SAW ALL THAT MOSES WAS DOING FOR THE PEOPLE, HE SAID, “WHAT IS THIS YOU ARE DOING FOR THE PEOPLE? WHY DO YOU ALONE SIT AS JUDGE, WHILE ALL THESE PEOPLE STAND AROUND YOU FROM MORNING TILL EVENING?”

EXODUS 18:15–16 NIV

¹⁵ MOSES ANSWERED HIM, “BECAUSE THE PEOPLE COME TO ME TO SEEK GOD’S WILL.

¹⁶ WHENEVER THEY HAVE A DISPUTE, IT IS BROUGHT TO ME, AND I DECIDE BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND INFORM THEM OF GOD’S DECREES AND INSTRUCTIONS.”

EXODUS 18:17–18 NIV

¹⁷ MOSES' FATHER-IN-LAW REPLIED,
"WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS NOT GOOD.

¹⁸ YOU AND THESE PEOPLE WHO COME TO
YOU WILL ONLY WEAR YOURSELVES OUT.
THE WORK IS TOO HEAVY FOR YOU; YOU
CANNOT HANDLE IT ALONE.

EXODUS 18:19–20 NIV

¹⁹ LISTEN NOW TO ME AND I WILL GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE, AND MAY GOD BE WITH YOU. YOU MUST BE THE PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVE BEFORE GOD AND BRING THEIR DISPUTES TO HIM.

²⁰ TEACH THEM HIS DECREES AND INSTRUCTIONS, AND SHOW THEM THE WAY THEY ARE TO LIVE AND HOW THEY ARE TO BEHAVE.

EXODUS 18:21–22 NIV

²¹ BUT SELECT CAPABLE MEN FROM ALL THE PEOPLE—MEN WHO FEAR GOD, TRUSTWORTHY MEN WHO HATE DISHONEST GAIN—AND APPOINT THEM AS OFFICIALS OVER THOUSANDS, HUNDREDS, FIFTIES AND TENS.

²² HAVE THEM SERVE AS JUDGES FOR THE PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES, BUT HAVE THEM BRING EVERY DIFFICULT CASE TO YOU; THE SIMPLE CASES THEY CAN DECIDE THEMSELVES. THAT WILL MAKE YOUR LOAD LIGHTER, BECAUSE THEY WILL SHARE IT WITH YOU.

EXODUS 18:23–24 NIV

²³ IF YOU DO THIS AND GOD SO COMMANDS, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO STAND THE STRAIN, AND ALL THESE PEOPLE WILL GO HOME SATISFIED.”

²⁴ MOSES LISTENED TO HIS FATHER-IN-LAW AND DID EVERYTHING HE SAID.

1 TIMOTHY 3:1 (KJV 1900)

¹ THIS IS A TRUE SAYING, IF A MAN DESIRE THE OFFICE OF A BISHOP, HE DESIRETH A GOOD WORK.

1 TIMOTHY 3:1 (NIV)

¹ HERE IS A TRUSTWORTHY SAYING: WHOEVER ASPIRES TO BE AN OVERSEER DESIRES A NOBLE TASK.

1 TIMOTHY 3:1–2 NLT

¹ THIS IS A TRUSTWORTHY SAYING: “IF SOMEONE ASPIRES TO BE A CHURCH LEADER, HE DESIRES AN HONORABLE POSITION.”

² SO A CHURCH LEADER MUST BE A MAN WHOSE LIFE IS ABOVE REPROACH. HE MUST BE FAITHFUL TO HIS WIFE. HE MUST EXERCISE SELF-CONTROL, LIVE WISELY, AND HAVE A GOOD REPUTATION. HE MUST ENJOY HAVING GUESTS IN HIS HOME, AND HE MUST BE ABLE TO TEACH.

1 TIMOTHY 3:3–5 NLT

³ HE MUST NOT BE A HEAVY DRINKER OR BE VIOLENT. HE MUST BE GENTLE, NOT QUARRELSOME, AND NOT LOVE MONEY.

⁴ HE MUST MANAGE HIS OWN FAMILY WELL, HAVING CHILDREN WHO RESPECT AND OBEY HIM.

⁵ FOR IF A MAN CANNOT MANAGE HIS OWN HOUSEHOLD, HOW CAN HE TAKE CARE OF GOD'S CHURCH?

1 TIMOTHY 3:6–7 NLT

⁶ A CHURCH LEADER MUST NOT BE A NEW BELIEVER, BECAUSE HE MIGHT BECOME PROUD, AND THE DEVIL WOULD CAUSE HIM TO FALL.

⁷ ALSO, PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH MUST SPEAK WELL OF HIM SO THAT HE WILL NOT BE DISGRACED AND FALL INTO THE DEVIL'S TRAP.

TITUS 1:5–6 ESV

⁵ THIS IS WHY I LEFT YOU IN CRETE, SO THAT YOU MIGHT PUT WHAT REMAINED INTO ORDER, AND APPOINT ELDERS IN EVERY TOWN AS I DIRECTED YOU—

⁶ IF ANYONE IS ABOVE REPROACH, THE HUSBAND OF ONE WIFE, AND HIS CHILDREN ARE BELIEVERS AND NOT OPEN TO THE CHARGE OF DEBAUCHERY OR INSUBORDINATION.

TITUS 1:7–8 ESV

⁷ FOR AN OVERSEER, AS GOD'S STEWARD, MUST BE ABOVE REPROACH. HE MUST NOT BE ARROGANT OR QUICK-TEMPERED OR A DRUNKARD OR VIOLENT OR GREEDY FOR GAIN,

⁸ BUT HOSPITABLE, A LOVER OF GOOD, SELF-CONTROLLED, UPRIGHT, HOLY, AND DISCIPLINED.

TITUS 1:9–10 ESV

⁹ HE MUST HOLD FIRM TO THE TRUSTWORTHY WORD AS TAUGHT, SO THAT HE MAY BE ABLE TO GIVE INSTRUCTION IN SOUND DOCTRINE AND ALSO TO REBUKE THOSE WHO CONTRADICT IT.

¹⁰ FOR THERE ARE MANY WHO ARE INSUBORDINATE, EMPTY TALKERS AND DECEIVERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE CIRCUMCISION PARTY.

TITUS 1:11–12 ESV

¹¹ THEY MUST BE SILENCED, SINCE THEY ARE UPSETTING WHOLE FAMILIES BY TEACHING FOR SHAMEFUL GAIN WHAT THEY OUGHT NOT TO TEACH.

¹² ONE OF THE CRETANS, A PROPHET OF THEIR OWN, SAID, “CRETANS ARE ALWAYS LIARS, EVIL BEASTS, LAZY GLUTTONS.”

TITUS 1:13–14 ESV

¹³ THIS TESTIMONY IS TRUE. THEREFORE REBUKE THEM SHARPLY, THAT THEY MAY BE SOUND IN THE FAITH,

¹⁴ NOT DEVOTING THEMSELVES TO JEWISH MYTHS AND THE COMMANDS OF PEOPLE WHO TURN AWAY FROM THE TRUTH.

ACTS 20:17–18 NIV

¹⁷ FROM MILETUS, PAUL SENT TO EPHESUS FOR THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCH.

¹⁸ WHEN THEY ARRIVED, HE SAID TO THEM: “YOU KNOW HOW I LIVED THE WHOLE TIME I WAS WITH YOU, FROM THE FIRST DAY I CAME INTO THE PROVINCE OF ASIA.

ACTS 20:19–20 NIV

¹⁹ I SERVED THE LORD WITH GREAT HUMILITY AND WITH TEARS AND IN THE MIDST OF SEVERE TESTING BY THE PLOTS OF MY JEWISH OPPONENTS.

²⁰ YOU KNOW THAT I HAVE NOT HESITATED TO PREACH ANYTHING THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO YOU BUT HAVE TAUGHT YOU PUBLICLY AND FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE.

ACTS 20:21–22 NIV

²¹ I HAVE DECLARED TO BOTH JEWS AND GREEKS THAT THEY MUST TURN TO GOD IN REPENTANCE AND HAVE FAITH IN OUR LORD JESUS.

²² “AND NOW, COMPELLED BY THE SPIRIT, I AM GOING TO JERUSALEM, NOT KNOWING WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME THERE.

ACTS 20:23–24 NIV

²³ I ONLY KNOW THAT IN EVERY CITY THE HOLY SPIRIT WARNS ME THAT PRISON AND HARDSHIPS ARE FACING ME.

²⁴ HOWEVER, I CONSIDER MY LIFE WORTH NOTHING TO ME; MY ONLY AIM IS TO FINISH THE RACE AND COMPLETE THE TASK THE LORD JESUS HAS GIVEN ME—THE TASK OF TESTIFYING TO THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S GRACE.

ACTS 20:25–26 NIV

²⁵ “NOW I KNOW THAT NONE OF YOU AMONG WHOM I HAVE GONE ABOUT PREACHING THE KINGDOM WILL EVER SEE ME AGAIN.

²⁶ THEREFORE, I DECLARE TO YOU TODAY THAT I AM INNOCENT OF THE BLOOD OF ANY OF YOU.

ACTS 20:28–29 NIV

²⁸ KEEP WATCH OVER YOURSELVES AND ALL THE FLOCK OF WHICH THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS MADE YOU OVERSEERS. BE SHEPHERDS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, WHICH HE BOUGHT WITH HIS OWN BLOOD.

²⁹ I KNOW THAT AFTER I LEAVE, SAVAGE WOLVES WILL COME IN AMONG YOU AND WILL NOT SPARE THE FLOCK.

ACTS 20:30–31B NIV

³⁰ EVEN FROM YOUR OWN NUMBER MEN WILL ARISE AND DISTORT THE TRUTH IN ORDER TO DRAW AWAY DISCIPLES AFTER THEM.

³¹ SO BE ON YOUR GUARD!

Mississippi Gulf Coast



THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS



- . **42%** OF PASTORS ARE THINKING OF QUITTING THE MINISTRY, **51%** FROM MAINLINE DENOMINATIONS
- . **1** OUT OF EVERY **10** PASTORS WILL ACTUALLY RETIRE AS A PASTOR.
- . **90%** OF PASTORS REPORT WORKING BETWEEN **55** AND **75** HOURS PER WEEK. (**PRE-COVID-19,**
- . **84%** OF PASTORS FELT THEY WERE ON CALL 24/7.)

- . **80% BELIEVE PASTORAL MINISTRY HAS NEGATIVELY AFFECTED THEIR FAMILIES. MANY PASTOR'S CHILDREN DO NOT ATTEND CHURCH NOW BECAUSE OF WHAT THE CHURCH HAS DONE TO THEIR PARENTS.**
- . **65% OF PASTORS FEEL THEIR FAMILY LIVES IN A "GLASS HOUSE" AND FEAR THEY ARE NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO MEET EXPECTATIONS.**
- . **78% OF PASTORS REPORT HAVING THEIR VACATION AND PERSONAL TIME INTERRUPTED WITH MINISTRY DUTIES OR EXPECTATIONS.**
- . **65% OF PASTORS FEEL THEY HAVE NOT TAKEN ENOUGH VACATION TIME WITH THEIR FAMILY OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS.**

- . **35% OF PASTORS REPORT THE DEMANDS OF THE CHURCH DENIES THEM FROM SPENDING TIME WITH THEIR FAMILY.**
- . **24% OF PASTOR'S FAMILIES RESENT THE CHURCH AND ITS EFFECT ON THEIR FAMILY.**
- . **22% OF PASTOR'S SPOUSES REPORTS THE MINISTRY PLACES UNDUE EXPECTATIONS ON THEIR FAMILY.**
- . **66% OF CHURCH MEMBERS EXPECT A MINISTER AND FAMILY TO LIVE AT A HIGHER MORAL STANDARD THAN THEMSELVES.**

- . **80% OF PASTORS AND 84% OF THEIR SPOUSES HAVE FELT UNQUALIFIED AND DISCOURAGED AS ROLE OF PASTORS AT LEAST ONE OR MORE TIMES IN THEIR MINISTRY.**
- . **52% OF PASTORS FEEL OVERWORKED AND CANNOT MEET THEIR CHURCH'S UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS.**
- . **54% OF PASTORS FIND THE ROLE OF A PASTOR OVERWHELMING.**
- . **40% REPORT SERIOUS CONFLICT WITH A PARISHIONER AT LEAST ONCE IN THE LAST YEAR.**

- . **80% OF PASTORS EXPECT CONFLICT WITHIN THEIR CHURCH.**
- . **70% OF PASTORS DO NOT HAVE SOMEONE THEY CONSIDER TO BE A CLOSE FRIEND.**
- . **27% OF PASTORS REPORT NOT HAVING ANYONE TO TURN TO FOR HELP IN A CRISIS SITUATION.**

- . **35% OF PASTORS BATTLE DEPRESSION OR FEAR OF INADEQUACY.**
- . **26% OF PASTORS REPORT BEING OVER FATIGUED.**
- . **28% OF PASTORS REPORT THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY UNDERNURISHED.**
- . **70% OF PASTORS REPORT THEY HAVE A LOWER SELF-IMAGE NOW THAN WHEN THEY FIRST STARTED.**

