

Chapter 9

1. What is the connection in purpose between 1 Timothy 3.1 and 1 Timothy 3.13?
2. What do these verses say to those who think the deacons are an insignificant body of church officials?
3. What does serving well as a deacon look like? Give personal and biblical examples.
4. What does Paul mean by “gaining a good standing for themselves”? Be specific.
5. What does Paul mean by the promise of gaining “great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus”? It is important that you clearly understand this reward for good service.
6. Why is “faith” essential to a believers relationship with Christ? Can you list any verses that support your answer?
7. What difference will it make to a deacon and his work if he significantly increases his confidence in his faith in Christ?
8. As a deacon, how does Paul’s powerful conclusion in verse 13 encourage you to serve more diligently as a deacon?
9. Explain the following quotation by William Mounce and how it applies to you:
 - a. “it is not so much that by being a good deacon a person will receive rewards; it is in the actual doing of the service that one daily acquires a better standing before the people in more confidence in one’s personal faith. These rewards are not given to a believer at a certain time but rather are achieved during the process of service.”
10. The Bible says: “do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord” (Rom 12.11). Leon Morris elaborates on this text in the following way:
 - a. **Do not be slothful in zeal:** “Paul is telling the Romans that where zeal is needed they must not be lazy people.”
 - b. **Be fervent in spirit:** “It is important that the human spirit be on fire, but Paul is not referring to something that occurs by some natural process but as a result of the indwelling spirit of God.”
 - c. **Serve the Lord:** “The verb points to thoroughgoing devotion, service like that of a slave. There is nothing half-hearted about it.”
 - i. Explain how each of the verses below challenges a deacon to be diligent in his work of assisting the elders with the care of gods church.
 - Ecclesiastes 9.10
 - Proverbs 10.26, 18.9
 - Romans 12.15-16
 - 1 Corinthians 15.58
 - Colossians 3.23-24, 4.17
 - Hebrews 6.10-11