

STANDING FOR TRUTH

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LESSON NINE

VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- **2 Corinthians 6:4-8**...but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, in the **word of truth**, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; *regarded* as deceivers and yet true;
- Truth: *aletheia*: certain beyond any doubt

HOW THE CHURCH FUNCTIONS

CHOOSING LEADERS

- ❑ **Hebrews 13:17** Obey your leaders and submit *to them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.
- ❑ Leaders: *hegeomai: (hegoumenois)* one having authority; one who is held in esteem
- ❑ This raises the question of where their authority comes from
- ❑ **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13** But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

WHAT CAUSES DISSENSION?

- ❑ **James 4:1-3** What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; *so* you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; *so* you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.
- ❑ Pleasures: *hedone*: sensual delight
- ❑ Envious: *zeloo*: covet, jealous
- ❑ Wrong motives: *kakos*: morally improper
- ❑ Some people leave when they don't get what they want
- ❑ **1 Thessalonians 5:14** We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

ARGUING vs TEACHING

- **Romans 14:1** Now accept the one who is weak in faith, *but not for the purpose of* passing judgment on his opinions.
- When someone doesn't understand the basics of the faith, it is pointless to quarrel; it is better to teach
- **Romans 14:5-6** One person regards one day above another, another regards every day *alike*. Each must be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.
- **Romans 14:16-17** Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

DUTY OF THE STRONG

- **Romans 15:1-3** Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not *just* please ourselves. Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME."
- Leaders should get their authority from God; But they also receive authority from others
- Paul: **2 Timothy 1:11**...for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher.
- **Acts 13:2-3** While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

CHOOSING AND APPOINTING

□ **Acts 6:3-6** "Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.

□ Chose: *eklego*: select from a larger group

□ **Acts 14:23** When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

APPOINTING

- ❑ Appoint: *cheirotoneo*: cheir (hand) toneo (stretch)
- ❑ speaking of Titus:
 - 2 Corinthians 8:18-19** We have sent along with him the brother whose fame in *the things of the gospel has spread* through all the churches; and not only *this*, but he has also been appointed by the churches to travel with us in this gracious work, which is being administered by us for the glory of the Lord Himself, and *to show* our readiness...
- ❑ Does it mean to stretch out the hand (commission)
- ❑ Or stretch out the hand (vote)
- ❑ The term is known to be used in either connotation in the Greek of the period
- ❑ Voting can have all manner of serious problems

IF VOTING...

- ❑ what sorts of protections can be put in place?
- ❑ **1 Timothy 3:2-7** An **overseer**, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. *He must be* one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), *and* not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. And he must have a good reputation with those outside *the church*, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

TITUS APPOINTING

- ❑ Was a vote to happen here?
- ❑ **Titus 1:5-9** For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint **elders** in every city as I directed you, *namely*, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. For the **overseer** must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

OVERSEERS AND DEACONS

- **Philippians 1:1** Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:
- **1 Timothy 3:8-13** Deacons likewise *must be* men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, *but* holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. Women *must likewise be* dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. Deacons must be husbands of *only* one wife, *and* good managers of *their* children and their own households. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

MOTIVATION

- ❑ Church leaders should not be motivated by a desire for appreciation and praise; they have a heart of service
- ❑ **Nehemiah 8:8-11** They read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading. Then Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest *and* scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved."

SPIRITUAL QUALITIES

- ❑ You cannot manufacture or force these qualities
- ❑ Older people are to teach those who are younger
- ❑ The body of Christ should be mutually encouraging
- ❑ **Ephesians 4:11-13** And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.
- ❑ All of the people serving in these particular roles will not be overseers or deacons

THE SPIRIT'S LEADING

- **1 Thessalonians 5:12-22** But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.

FELLOWSHIP AND WORSHIP

- ❑ Sometimes we think of worship as only involving music
- ❑ But real worship is expressed in many different ways in the church including in fellowship
- ❑ **Romans 12:1-2** Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- ❑ Worship: *latreia*: service