

The Book of 1st Timothy and Church Roles and Responsibilities

Week Three

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Date: _____

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Introduction:

Author: Paul the Apostle Timing: 58/59 or 64/65AD Audience: A letter to Timothy

The book of 1st Timothy was written by Paul (a.k.a., Saul) shortly after leaving Ephesus over the Demetrius incident. Timothy (Translated “one who honors God”), a profound believer was from Derbe or Lystra in Asia Minor. Timothy was the son of Eunice, a Jewess, and a Greek man who is unnamed. His grandmother, Lois was a pious woman; as was her daughter, who had significant influence in the life of Timothy.

Paul met Timothy in 51 or 52AD and Timothy became a traveling companion of Paul and Silas. Timothy was recognized early on as someone who would be important to the church. The underlying theme of the book is widely accepted to be primarily instruction on church leadership. I find it broader than that thus the Title of this study.

Chapter three discusses how bishops and deacons, and their wives should be qualified; and to what end Paul wrote to Timothy of these things.

Chapter Three

3:1 This *is* a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

1. How do we define the role of Bishop? Tit 1:7, 1 Pet 2:25, 1 Pet 5:2, Act 20:28 What is the good work that is desired? Eph 4:12

3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant [attentive to discover and avoid danger], sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

3:3 Not given to wine, no striker[a quarrelsome man,], not greedy of filthy lucre[Gain in money or goods]; but patient, not a brawler [A noisy fellow; quarrelsome], not covetous;

2. Discuss the above qualifications and what they imply. Tit 1:6-9. 1 Pet 5:8, Heb 13:2 Can a bishop be a woman, a divorced man, or a widower? Why?

3:4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;
3:5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

3. What does it mean to rule you house well? 1 Sam 2:30, 3:13, Mat 12:29, Mar 22:6. What does it mean to have children in subjection? Gen 18:19, Prov 20:11, 22:6, 15, 23:13, 29:15.
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3:6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.
3:7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

4. Why would being a novice make a man more subject to pride? 1Cor 3:1, Heb 5:12-13, Who is “without” and how can they cause one to fall prey to the devil’s snare? Isa 2:12, 1Cor 1:18, 1Pet 5:5.
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3:8 Likewise *must* the deacons *be* grave [Serious, sober-minded], not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;
3:9 Holding the mystery [a truth undiscoverable except by revelation] of the faith in a pure conscience.
3:10 And let these also first be proved [tried, experienced]; then let them use the office of a deacon, being *found* blameless.

5. How is “faith in a pure conscience” different from standard faith? How is one proved? Psa 66:10, Dan 1:14, 2 Cor 8:22.
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3:11 Even so *must their* wives *be* grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.

6. Relate the above verse to last week’s lesson. 1Tim 2:14, Tit 2:3-4, 1 Tim 2:9-11.
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3:12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

3:13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

7. What is the difference between a bishop and a deacon? Acts 6:3-6, 1 Pet 2:25

3:14 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly:

3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

8. Why did Paul write the above statements to Timothy? 1 King 2:4, 1Ch 22:13, 1 Pet 4:10-11.

3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

9. Explain the need for the above statement given Timothy's circumstances? Acts 19:20, 23-30... , 20:1.

Summary:

In this 3rd chapter to the book of 1st Timothy, Paul lays the foundation for the structure upon which the church of God was to be shore up and sustained in Ephesus. It just so happens, that when one studies this chapter and book and looks beyond the surface, it becomes clear that this so-called foundation can sustain God church throughout the world. And, in deed, has and will sustain God's church throughout time. If Gods church embraces vs 16 above, all will fall into place.

Thank you for attending,
Pat Turner

