

1st Timothy

Fall 2024

Week 8 - Timothy 3: 8 - 15

“What “Right” looks like in a Church according to Paul

- Sound Doctrine
- A Place of Grace
- Prayer (for everyone, especially leaders)
- Godly Elders and Deacons
- Teaching the Bible
- Caring for People
- Pursuing Godliness

1 Timothy 3: 8 - 15

⁸ In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁹ They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

¹¹ In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

¹² A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. ¹³ Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

¹⁴ Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, ¹⁵ if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. ¹⁶ Beyond all questions, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great:

He appeared in the flesh,
was vindicated by the Spirit,
was seen by angels,
was preached among the nations,
was believed in the world,
was taken up in glory.

Background

- ❖ This week we look at the qualifications of the deacons, which are similar to those of the overseers of the church.

Question 1 – *The ESV says in verse 8 that deacons are not to be double tongued. What does it mean to be double tongued?*

Question 2 – *What is the difference between 1 Tim 3:3 and 1Tim 3:8?*

- ❖ Read Acts 6:1-4

Question 3 – Why is 1Tim 3:11 a critical verse in this chapter?

- ❖ Look at **Romans 16:1- 4**
- ❖ Phoebe is a minister of the gospel *with* us.

Question 4 – *Why is it important for us to be in a church with a “Living God” (verse 15)*

- ❖ Fredrick Buechner says
 - “WHEN JESUS SAYS that he has come to bear witness to the truth, Pilate asks, “What is truth?” (John 18:38). Contrary to the traditional view that his question is cynical, it is possible that he asks it with a lump in his throat. Instead of truth, Pilate has only expedience. His decision to throw Jesus to the wolves is expedient. Pilate views humankind as alone in the universe with nothing but its own courage and ingenuity to see it through. That is enough to choke up anybody.

Pilate asks, “What is truth?” and for years there have been politicians, scientists, theologians, philosophers, poets, and so on to tell him. The sound they make is like the sound of crickets chirping.

Jesus doesn't answer Pilate's question. He just stands there. Stands, and stands there.”

Question 5 – *Why is the church a foundation of the truth (verse 15)?*

- ❖ Paul finishes this chapter by saying in verse 16 “beyond all questions, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great: He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed in the world, was taken up in glory.”

Question 6 – *What does it mean to be Vindicated by the Spirit*

Question 7 – *Can you pick out the times Jesus was seen by the angels*

Final thoughts

Question 8 – *What would be an “appropriate test” for someone under consideration for the office of a deacon?*

Question 9 – *What kind of test would you be willing to undergo?*

Qualifications for Elders (1 Tim. 3:1-7)

1. Above Reproach – Free from scandal
2. Husband of one Wife
3. Temperate

4. Self-Controlled
5. Respectable
6. Hospitable
7. Able to teach (**James 3:1 and Acts 17:11**)
8. Not given to drunkenness
9. Not violent but gentle
10. Not quarrelsome
11. Not a lover of money
12. Manages his own family well
13. See that his children obey him
14. Not a recent convert
15. Has a good reputation with outsiders (**Luke 6:26**)

Outline of 1st Timothy

- I. Salutation (1:1–2)
- II. The charge concerning false teachers (1:3–4)
 - a. The charge to preserve the purity of the Gospel (1:5–11)
 - b. Two examples (1:12–20)
- III. Instructions concerning pastoral ministry (2:1–3:16)
 - a. Public worship (2:1–15)
 - i. The duty of prayer (2:1–7)
 - ii. The position of men in public worship (2:8–10)
 - iii. The position of women in public worship (2:11–15)
 - b. The qualifications for public ministry (3:1–13)
 - i. Overseers (or pastors) (3:1–7)
 - ii. Deacons (3:8–13)
 - iii. The center and substance of public ministry (3:14–16)
- IV. Opposing false teachers (4:1–16)
 - a. False teachers described (4:1–5)
 - b. The pastor's work against false teachers (4:6–16)
- V. Pastoral ministry with various groups (5–6:2)
 - a. Older and younger, widows, elders, and slaves (5:1–25)
 - b. Concluding exhortations (6:3–19)
 - c. Reiteration of Charge (6:20–21)

References

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