

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

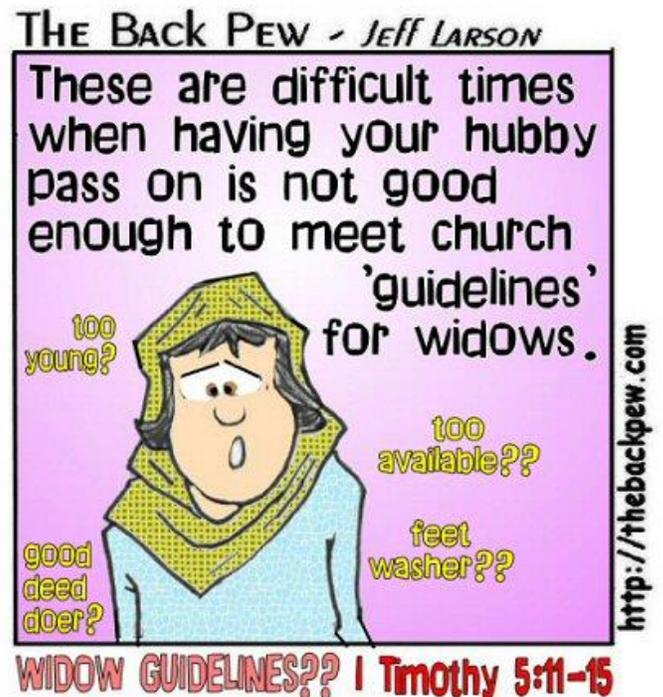
- 1) 03 March 2013..... 1Timothy 1:1-20..... Follow Sound Doctrine
- 2) 10 March..... 1Timothy 2:1-15..... Please God in Worship
- 3) 17 March..... 1Timothy 3:1-4:16..... Honor God in Your Service
- 4) 24 March..... 1Timothy 5:1-6:2..... Care for Others
- 5) 31 March..... Matthew 28:1-20..... Believe in the Risen Lord
- 6) 07 April..... 1Timothy 6:3-21..... Pursue Spiritual Gifts
- 7) 14 April..... 2Timothy 1:1-18..... Be Loyal
- 8) 21 April..... 2Timothy 2:1-26..... Be Strong in God's Work
- 9) 28 April..... 2Timothy 3:1-17..... Be Guided by God's Word
- 10) 05 May..... 2Timothy 4:1-22..... Be Persistent to the End
- 11) 12 May..... Titus 1:1-16..... Look for Qualified Spiritual Leaders
- 12) 19 May..... Titus 2:1-15..... Look for Spiritual Excellence
- 13) 26 May..... Titus 3:1-15..... Look for Good Works

INTRODUCTION

- **Quick Test:** Is the Church a Bank, Business, or Family?
- **Quick Test #2:** Is God more concerned about a family having a comfortable and enjoyable life full of things, or is He more interested in conforming His saints into the image of His Son?
- **Quick Test #3:** Is it appropriate to leave an elderly church lady living homeless on the street? Yes; No
 - ♦ **Note:** To change bad behavior, the Apostle Paul would
- The Church was not designed to help those who could help themselves or be helped by others. The Church's role is to train faithful servants who would come alongside those needing help and guide them till they were able to take care of themselves

Passage	Comments
Long Term Church Support	Scripture is very restrictive with defining who the church should support on a long term basis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The only valid candidates are widows who possess a stellar testimony, have no family, and are too old or feeble to remarry ♦ All others must rely on family, friends, neighbors, and/or God for assistance ♦ The church should be the last resort, yet churches often give support to young, able-bodied sad-luck stories who are in need of financial counseling rather than a tax-free handout
5:17-25	Concerning Elders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv17-18. "...double honor" for those who toil in God's word to teach sound doctrine – Teaching God's word is a high priority for the church and it's elders (Pastors) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ No one gets saved without hearing God's word ♦ No one grows without absorbing God's word ♦ No one avoids sin without obeying God's word • "Double Honor" probably refers to providing proper compensation for teaching elders (Pastors) and giving elders the benefit of the doubt in areas of dispute • v19. Charges of elder misbehavior should not be frivolous or taken lightly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Paul warned the Ephesian elders that "savage wolves" and "men speaking perverse things" to mislead the church would arise from among the elders themselves – so be warned..... Acts 20:28-31 • v20. Principle to live by – Know when and how to rebuke publicly – for example, when a church leader fails to repent • v21. Principle to live by – Show no partiality. Give tough love to all who need it from Elders to Widows • v22. Principle to live by – Don't rush into ordaining people into leadership – Prove all to avoid sin later

Passage	Comments
1Timothy 5:1-2	Show Respect and Avoid Impropriety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When someone needs to be rebuked for open sin, their respective age and sex determines the approach to use to show the highest respect & to avoid impropriety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ If the man is elderly, treat him as a father figure ♦ An older woman as a mother figure ♦ If the man is on the young side, then as a brother ♦ And younger women as sisters • Also, for church related offenses, the one doing the chastising should have appropriate authority
5:3-16	Show Compassion with Tough Love <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v3. Honor or support widows who are "widows indeed" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Over 60 years old (IOW, too old or feeble to remarry) ♦ ..and they have no means of family support • Paul did not assume a supernatural provision for widows, but that God would meet their needs providentially AFTER they "prayed night and day" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Possibly other church members would care for them • v7. Even widows were to be made aware of these principles to live by so they could "be above reproach" • v8. Principle to Live By – Families are responsible for their weaker members – unless they are prodigal kids • vv9-10. Widow Qualifications for long term support <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Being over sixty years of age 2. Has been faithful to her husband 3. Is well known for bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble 4. Devotes herself to all kinds of good deeds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Why 60 years of age? Should that age limit be adjusted for our day and age? This is another good reason why God wants the right people who are spiritually mature to properly assess each situation • vv11-15. Younger widows should consider getting married to avoid being tripped up by Satan



Passage	Comments
<p>Super-heroes for Today Include Elders, Deacons, and their Families</p>	<p>WE NEED MORE SUPERHEROES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also, since the qualifications for Elders and even for Deacons and their wives, are a cut above the norm, their personal sacrifices to meet those qualifications make them Superheroes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Elders and Deacons give up precious family time to spend in study, in prayer, in hospital visits and fellowship with more needy families Their wives and kids give up their family head so he can be with others – Life is not about them!!! The Elder and Deacon families make sacrifices in the areas of food and drink for testimony sake They also spend less time in front of the TV and computer and in personal hobbies to spend it with each other and before God and His word They must be on guard 24x7 to maintain a positive testimony in words, thoughts and actions
<p>5:23</p>	<p>Have Supernatural Miracles Ceased?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “...use a little wine for the sake of your stomach...” Paul tells Timothy, in essence, take some medicine Paul once worked all kinds of signs and wonders (Acts 14:3); He healed all kinds of diseases in Ephesus (Acts 19:11-12); he even raised the dead (Acts 20:9-10); and he healed everyone on the isle of Malta (Acts 28:8-9); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> So why couldn't Paul or even Timothy say a prayer to relieve a simple upset stomach? Were Paul & Timothy in sin? Or did they lose their faith? Where were the ones with gifts of healings? And where was Paul's special handkerchief? Also consider that Paul could not heal even himself of a thorn in the flesh (2Cor 12:7-9); nor could he heal Epaphroditus (Phil 2:25); he had to leave Trophimus sick in Miletus (2Tim 4:20); and James 5 says the sick should confess their sins and have the church elders pray for them for a healing (where were the faith healers and miracle workers?) We have to acknowledge the problem wasn't with Paul or Timothy, but with God invoking a change God now works providentially (“...all things work together for our good” Rom 8:28) We won't see supernatural miracles again till the 2 witnesses from Revelations 11 show up For more details on how the Holy Spirit chooses to work today in His Church see “Miracles Today” http://rodoneil.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/ONeil-HM.pdf
<p>5:24-25</p>	<p>Common Sense Selection Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul continues advising Timothy on what to look for in high quality Elders and Deacons v24. We are to avoid those with obvious flaws – if one is not faithful in small things, they will not be faithful with larger responsibilities Mat 25:21 But there will be some who will slip in underneath the radar – wolves in sheep's clothing.....Acts 20:28-31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Apostles were duped by Judas Paul was duped by Demas (Col 4:14, 2Tim 4:10) John had to deal with Diotrefes (elder to elder) since he chased people out of church (3John 9-10) And John knew of other false brethren (1John 2:19) REMEMBER → It is better to have a few Elders and Deacons who meet all the qualifications than a lot who meet only some of the qualifications

Passage	Comments
<p>6:1-2</p>	<p>Master/Slave Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christian slaves (employees) are to treat their believing or unbelieving masters (employers) with utmost respect Christian underlings (slaves, employees, etc.) must watch out for wrong attitudes toward their leaders, whether it be at home, work, or church. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall that King David's troops tried to slay him because things didn't go too well on one of their expeditions. If David hadn't relied on the Lord things would've gone from bad to worse..... 1Samuel 30

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- From a benevolence perspective, the Apostle Paul tried to put pressure on people to properly take care of their family members so the church did not have to take on that responsibility. After all, the church had a higher calling than taking care of people who had able-bodied relatives who should stand up to that task. This, of course, assumes the family member needing assistance is not in the prodigal category.
- Would the Apostle Paul tell a church not to support a faithful widow who met all the criteria but was only 59? What if she had Alzheimer's? Again, it cannot be hammered home enough the need to have spiritually mature Elders and Deacons who can work through the various complexities of each situation

NEXT WEEK: Matthew 28:1-20. An earthquake, an angel, and an empty tomb were precursors to the disciples being commissioned to make disciples of all nations

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp

