

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

- In these 2 chapters Paul lists the general qualifications required for church elders, deacons, and their wives; and he stresses the need to "pay close attention" to sound doctrine so people can be saved, both from Hell and from deception
- Job descriptions for elders and deacons are not defined here. Paul just illuminates the character of elders, deacons and their wives

Passage	Comments
Deacon Selection Process	Originally, Apostles had the congregation identify qualified men; then the Apostles would anoint them for service through praying & laying on of hands..... Acts 6:1-6 This process would continue, with Elders replacing the Apostles as church leaders
Elder/Deacon Removal Process	Since Apostles and Elders can commission Elders and Deacons, then it stands to reason they would be the ones to remove individuals from service due to a violation of a qualification, such as sexual misconduct. Charges against Elders cannot be frivolous..... 1Tim 5:19

Position	Comparison Qualifications	Passage(s)
Elder	Self-control	1Tim 3:2; Titus 1:8
Elder	Hospitable	1Tim 3:2; Titus 1:8
Elder	Able to teach	1Tim 3:2; 5:17; Titus 1:9
Elder	Not violent, but gentle	1Tim 3:3; Titus 1:7
Elder	Not quarrelsome	1Tim 3:3
Elder	Not a lover of money	1Tim 3:3
Elder	Not a recent convert	1Tim 3:6
Elder	Not overbearing	Titus 1:7
Elder	Not quick-tempered	Titus 1:7
Elder	Loves what is good	Titus 1:8
Elder	Upright, holy	Titus 1:8
Elder	Disciplined	Titus 1:8
Elder	Above reproach (blameless)	1Tim 3:2; Titus 1:6
Deacon		1Tim 3:9
Elder	Husband of one wife	1Tim 3:2; Titus 1:6
Deacon		1Tim 3:9
Elder	Temperate	1Tim 3:2; Titus 1:7
Deacon		1Tim 3:9
Elder	Respectable	1Tim 3:2;
Deacon		1Tim 3:8
Elder	Not given to wine	1Tim 3:3; Titus 1:7
Deacon	Not given to much wine	1Tim 3:8
Elder	Manages his own family well	1Tim 3:4;
Deacon		1Tim 3:12
Elder	Sees that his children obey him	1Tim 3:4-5; Titus 1:6
Deacon		1Tim 3:12
Elder	Good reputation with outsiders	1Tim 3:7
Deacon	Good reputation	Acts 6:2
Elder	Doesn't pursue dishonest gain	Titus 1:7;
Deacon		1Tim 3:8
Elder	Holds to the truth	Titus 1:9;
Deacon		1Tim 3:9
Deacon	Sincere	1Tim 3:8
Deacon	Tested	1Tim 3:10
Deacon	Full of the Spirit and Wisdom	Acts 6:2
Wives	Dignified	1Tim 3:11
Wives	Not malicious gossips	1Tim 3:11
Wives	Temperate (common to all)	1Tim 3:11
Wives	Faithful in all things	1Tim 3:11

Passage	Comments
1Timothy 3:1-13	<p><b>Elder and Deacon Qualifications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v1. "This is a faithful saying..." – Paul uses this "faithful saying" 5x (1Tim 1:15; 3:1; 4:9; 2Tim 2:11; Titus 3:9) to highlight a significant teaching or concept</li> <li>• v1. "...if any man desires/aspires to the office of an elder, it is a commendable desire." – In fact, everyone – male &amp; female, young &amp; old, should aspire to mirror the attributes or qualifications of a spiritually mature elder whether they are qualified to be one or not</li> <li>• <b>Are there exceptions?</b> Can an Elder or Deacon be a widower? Can a wife be divorced &amp; remarried? Can an elder/deacon have a sordid past before getting saved?                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ The qualifications are common sense guidelines to ensure the church has stellar examples to follow</li> <li>♦ Churches have the freedom to invoke additional requirements. E.g., An elder should not have a debt problem; or an addiction problem, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3:14-16	<p><b>The Church is a Living Organism, Not a Building</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v15. Paul sees the church as more than just a building to hold a worship service in, but as a living organism (church of the LIVING God) with the purpose to be a pillar of truth for society                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Catholics love this verse, but even Catholics are split between Rome and Eastern Orthodox with numerous other divisions within each of them</li> </ul> </li> <li>• So how do thousands of churches around the world, with many having different beliefs about the Bible function as a single organism of truth?                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Answer:</b> God's Word is still central</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v16. Paul provides a quote from an early creed, which gives credence to churches being established soon after the Lord's crucifixion and resurrection</li> </ul>
Biblical Elder Selection Process	Originally, Elders were selected by Apostles or by Apostolic emissaries such as Timothy and Titus. Then the process would be self-perpetuating by qualified Elders selecting other qualified Elders
Types of Elders	Since Elders have replaced Apostles, the typical Elder position is a Pastor/Teacher ... Eph 4:11; 1Cor 12:28-29 Other Elders could be ministerial elders, evangelists, etc.



Topic	Comments
Challenges for the Modern Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Today, there is a plethora of elder roles depending on the church type – Pastors, Bishops, Priests, Elders, and some churches still retain the title of Apostles</li> <li>• Selection process of Elders and Deacons also varies depending on a church's by-laws</li> <li>• College degrees have replaced character testing in some churches. Or a "good 'ol boy" network develops</li> <li>• And, as some churches adopt more liberal leanings, church leadership has become inclusive of all sexes and sexual orientations</li> </ul>
Lessons from Jeremiah and Ezekiel on How NOT To Shepherd God's People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jer 10:21 <i>For the shepherds have become stupid and have not sought the LORD; Therefore they have not prospered, And all their flock is scattered.</i></li> <li>• Jer 50:6 <i>My people have become lost sheep because their shepherds have led them astray.</i></li> <li>• Eze 34:2 <i>Woe, you shepherds who have been feeding yourselves! Should you not be feeding the flock?</i></li> <li>• Eze 34:8 <i>My flock has become food for all the beasts of the field for lack of a shepherd, and My shepherds did not search for My flock, but rather the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock;</i></li> </ul>
A Lesson on Bad Sheep	<p>But what if the sheep are the problem?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeremiah 22:22 [God will remove] <i>all your shepherds... Then you will surely be ashamed and humiliated because of all your wickedness.</i></li> <li>• Hoshea 4:16 <i>Since Israel is stubborn like a stubborn heifer, can the LORD pasture them like a lamb in a large field?</i> [rhetorical answer is NO]</li> </ul>
The Good Shepherd is coming	<p>Yet, God still promises to protect His people and give them the leaders needed as seen from the OT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeremiah 3:15 <i>I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you knowledge &amp; understanding</i></li> <li>• Jeremiah 23:4 <i>I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing</i></li> <li>• Eze 34:12 <i>I will care for My sheep and will deliver them from all the places to which they were scattered.</i></li> <li>• Eze 37:24 <i>My servant David (Jesus) will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes</i></li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
4:1-5	<p><b>Identifying False Teachings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v1. Why is it easy to leave the TRUTH and chase after the LIES of "deceitful spirits &amp; doctrines of demons?" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Is the "flash &amp; bang" of false teachings exciting?</li> <li>♦ Are we prone to have our flesh &amp; ears "tingle"</li> <li>♦ Is the desire to follow legalistic rules more enticing?</li> <li>♦ Do we prefer immediate gratification?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv2-3. What is a seared conscience? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ The conscience is our God-given faculty to know or discern good and evil (Gen 3:22)</li> <li>♦ However, one's conscience can be <b>weak</b> (1Cor 8:12) or <b>defiled</b> (Titus 1:15) or <b>evil</b> (Heb 10:22); or <b>shipwrecked</b> (1Tim 1:19) or even <b>seared</b> (1Tim 4:2)</li> <li>♦ To be sensitive to the Lord's leading, we need to exercise our conscience in righteousness to develop a conscience that is <b>good</b> (Heb 13:18), <b>pure</b> (1Tim 3:9), and <b>purged</b> from sin &amp; dead works (Heb 9:14)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv4-5. Apparently dietary restrictions were still a stumbling block for many at this time. All food items (including pork &amp; lobster) are no longer forbidden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ What other restrictions do some churches impose today to give an appearance of holiness?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4:6-13	<p><b>Be a Positive Example</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v7a. What are some "worldly fables" that can trip us? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Evolution? "One religion is as good as another"?</li> <li>♦ We need to "tolerate" alternative life styles?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v7b-9. How do we discipline ourselves for godliness? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Consider set times for prayer &amp; bible study</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv11-12, "<i>Let no one despise your youth...</i>" – True respect is not demanded; it is earned through example</li> <li>• v13. "<i>...give attention to public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching</i>" – Sound doctrine is what saves us and keeps us from deception, so know it well</li> </ul>
Public Reading of Scripture within the early Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scripture reading in the early church played a major part of their worship, far beyond what it does today</li> <li>• Justin Martyr (100-167AD) described to pagans what goes on in a Christian service about the reading of "<i>the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets for as long as time permits.</i>" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Expositor's Bible Commentary, p636</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4:14-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v14. "<i>Neglect not the spiritual gift within you, through prophecy and with the laying on of hands by the elders</i>" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Does this happen today? Should it?</li> <li>♦ CAUTION. We are not told what Timothy's gift was; we can only speculate it had to do with evangelizing or administering as an Elder. See "<a href="http://rodoneil.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/ONEIL-HM.pdf">Miracles Today</a>" (<a href="http://rodoneil.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/ONEIL-HM.pdf">http://rodoneil.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/ONEIL-HM.pdf</a>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v15. "<i>Practice these things, be absorbed in them, so your progress will be evident to all</i>" – Faithful, growing leaders breed faithful, growing churches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Matthew 5:16 <i>Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• v16. Sound doctrine and persistent teaching saves. This needs to be a priority in all churches</li> </ul>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Though some in the church may not qualify to be elders or deacons, yet everyone can share in and support the work of elders and deacons, & even emulate the spiritually mature characteristics of elders and deacons, which yields its own blessings in one's life

NEXT WEEK: 1Timothy 5. Paul addresses how to handle difficult people and situations for God's glory and the benefit of the church

