

Paul's First Letter to Timothy Lesson 3

HOW ONE OUGHT TO CONDUCT HIMSELF IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD!

5:17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. **18** For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE HE IS THRESHING," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages." **19** Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses. **20** Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also may be fearful of *sinning*.

21. Treatment of Elders – The natural leaders of the church that the members look to for direction are to be handled carefully. These are the men that the deacons are chosen from because of their natural leadership within the congregation. These of the men from whom the pastors are chosen for the same reason. Great care must be taken when it is thought that they have done wrong. There must be more than two making the accusation. If the accusation is correct and sin, not an unintentional mistake or perception, then the elder is to be presented to the church so fear of sinning will be present in the hearts of all.

21 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His chosen angels, to maintain these *principles* without bias, doing nothing in a *spirit of partiality*.

22. Maintain these principles – Without bias Paul states concerning these principles. Fairness is to be shown to all without partiality.

22 Do not lay hands upon anyone *too hastily* and thus share *responsibility* for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin.

23. Carefulness with laying on of hands – Many aspire to be leaders in the church, as pastors and deacons. Great care must be taken to make sure they meet the criteria, to make sure they hold to these principles, to make sure they believe the doctrines correctly. If they do not, hands should not be laid on them until they prove themselves in all areas.

23 No longer drink water *exclusively*, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.

24. For the stomach ailments – In those days, wine was one of the few liquids available for medical purposes. Herb and oils from many plants were added to wine as it was used as the caring agent. Paul is giving permission to use the wine for Timothy's stomach problem and frequent ailments. It was to be used like we use cough syrup, etc. Timothy was a pastor and if you remember in the beginning of this letter, pastors were not to be addicted to wine. This is simply permission being given to use wine in its proper place.

²⁴The sins of some men are quite evident, going before them to judgment; for others, their *sins* follow after. ²⁵Likewise also, deeds that are good are quite evident, and those which are otherwise cannot be concealed.

25. Sins and Good deeds – It is important to understand that sins and good deeds have similar characteristics. Both effect all persons involved. Both are quite evident even when they are trying to be hidden, they cannot be concealed, each will be known by many whether you want them to or not.

^{6:1}Let all who are under the yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and *our* doctrine may not be spoken against. ²And let those who have believers as their masters not be disrespectful to them because they are brethren, but let them serve them all the more, because those who partake of the benefit are believers and beloved. Teach and preach these *principles*.

26. Employees – Believers who are employees of believing or unbelieving masters must serve the master with respect and dignity, representing the doctrines of the faith well. This is an important point that must be taught to all believers.

^{6:3}If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, ⁴he is conceited *and* understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, ⁵and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. ⁶But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment. ⁷For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. ⁸And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. ⁹But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.

27. Advocates of Different Doctrines – On a regular basis, people will come into the church with an agenda that is not in line with Lord's designed purpose for the church. Especially in churches like our where the membership is very large, people come to this church seeing it as an unlimited source of clients and customers to draw from and build a successful and profitable business, bringing wealth beyond measure. The church is never to be used for this purpose. The love of money is the root of all sorts of evil and when people come into the church with wrong intentions, they are to be dealt with carefully. True godliness is the real means of wealth! Not a wealth in money but in God's riches!

6:11 But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. **13** I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, **14** that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15** which He will bring about at the proper time-- He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords; **16** who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him *be* honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

28. The Man of God – Timothy is the man of God in Ephesus. He has his instruction from his mentor Paul who received this instruction from the Holy Spirit. Timothy is to flee from the love of money as all pastors must do so and pursue all that Paul lays out for him to do in both word and deed.

6:17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. **18** Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, **19** storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

29. Instruction for the Wealthy - Timothy and other pastors, deacons, elders, etc. are not to chase after the love of money, but there will be people within the church who have wealth and means. These people are to be careful with the way they use that money and we must help protect them in the use of their money for the Lord. They are to have a giving heart and use the money for the Lord, doing things for Him, laying up treasures in heaven because they have followed His leadership and helped the church minister to those in need.

6:20 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly *and* empty chatter *and* the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge"-- **21** which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.

30. Final Instruction to Timothy – The final word deals with worldly and empty chatter as well as opposing arguments that are called "knowledge." Sometimes heady high minded people read too much into the intent of the Word of God. They make the scripture more difficult to understand than the simple words written on the page. God's word is for the common man. It was written for the every day man in his every day language. Over thinking the scripture, over defining the words within its pages, and entering into worthless and fruitless arguments about it are to be avoided at all costs. Timothy is to guard the principles laid out by the Holy Spirit and stay firmly rooted in the faith.

Paul ends the letter with grace directed at Timothy. Paul knows that Timothy will need to rely on the grace of the Lord as he pastors this church in Ephesus that has many struggles and troubles in the faith.