

I TIMOTHY 3:1-7

REVIEW...

- **THREE LESSONS ...**
 - o Always TEACH the Word – because only the Word has the power to change lives...
 - o The résumé for ministry - the GRACE of God – for the POWER of God – through FAITH in God...
 - o We are to PRAY for ALL men – for leaders – and for the salvation of unbelievers!
- **THE ROLE OF WOMEN...**
 - o Having given the first 3 lessons – the Word / Grace / and Prayer...
 - Paul spent the rest of chapter 2 and all of chapter 3 on ROLES in the church...
 - He began by giving instructions about the ROLE of women in the church...
 - o Women are to dress nicely [*kosmeo*] when they come to church...
 - But they are to be careful not to dress to draw attention to themselves – point to Jesus...
 - Instead of focusing on outward beauty – they should be full of Jesus Christ!
 - o How women are to act when they are in church...
 - They are to LEARN quietly – submitting to the authority of the pastors...
 - And they are NOT to teach men – only women and children...
 - Eve was created to help Adam (*men need help*) / because Eve was deceived (*emotion*)...
 - Women will be saved in THE childbearing – Jesus – it is all about abiding in Jesus!

THE ROLE OF PASTORS IN CHURCH... (6 POINTS)

- **1ST – CHURCH GOVERNMENT... (2 POINTS)**
 - o 1st - The three words used to describe a LEADER in the church...
 - These terms are used interchangeably in the New Testament...
 - BISHOP – describes their responsibility – to lead / oversee the people...
 - PASTOR – describes their purpose – to teach and protect the people – **Ephesians 4:11**
 - ELDER – describes their age – experience they have earned so they can help the people!
 - God established leaders in the church – to establish order...
 - Imagine if everyone just did what they wanted to in church...
 - There was no one leading – no one directing and organizing the believers...
 - No one to establish the time to have Bible Study / no one leading the service...
 - Imagine a Sunday service were everyone was trying to share all at once...
 - There would be chaos - and ministry cannot happen effectively in chaos!
 - **I Corinthians 14:33** - “For God is not the author of confusion but of peace... But be sure that everything is done properly and in order.”
 - God is a God of order - He works through structure...
 - There is a balance - we are to be open to the Spirit - we are to be flexible...
 - But we are also to be wise - we are to make plans - we are to be organized...
 - That is why God has established order in His church – Pastors / Deacons...
 - Not that we are organized by men – we look to the Word of God / Jesus to lead us...
 - But by the Grace of God leaders are appointed to lead us according to the Word!
 - **Hebrews 13:17** - “Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God...”
 - o 2nd - The four different types of church Government...
 - *Episkopos* government - defined by a church that is overseen by one leader...
 - Based off of **I Timothy 3:2** – the word for BISHOP is *Episkopos*...

- It focuses on one centralized authority within the church – one leader!
- Catholicism is the largest Episkopos church in the world today...
- Although there are many churches – they are all under the authority of one leader!
- The benefit of this kind of church is that the leader is free to follow the Lord...
- The downside is there tends to be very little accountability for the leader!
- Presbyteros government – defined by a group of elders who oversee the church...
 - Acts 14:23 – “They had appointed elders [Presbyteros] in every church...”
 - Elders – literally older men who are wise – are the ones who lead the church...
 - It focuses on the need for a group / board – to make all the decisions...
 - Assuming that there is greater wisdom in a multitude of counselors!
 - Baptist churches are known for their boards – for their group of elders
 - The benefit of this kind of church is there is much greater accountability...
 - The downside is it can be hard to make decisions – come to an agreement!
- Congregational government – defined by a democratically elected leadership...
 - Christ is the head of his church – Colossians 1:18 – no need for a person to lead...
 - All believers are priests - I Peter 2:9 – so we can all be a part directing the church!
 - This model of the church actually has no example in the New Testament...
 - It became popular over the last 400 years with the rise of democracy...
 - The problem with it is – it is almost impossible to get everyone to agree on anything!
- Moses / Israel – a church government defined by a blended model ...
 - Moses was called by God to speak for Him to the nation of Israel – Exodus 20:18-19
 - But the work was too much for one man – other men helped him – Exodus 18:17
 - In this model Jesus is the head of the church – and He makes all decisions...
 - But He calls one man to be His representative to a congregation - Moses...
 - But that leader does not work alone – he has a group of elders to help him out!
 - The benefit of this kind of church – is the leader is free to follow the Lord...
 - But there is still a group of men who make sure that he is accountable...
 - Which is why this fourth model is the style of church government we follow!
- 2ND – THE CALLING OF A PASTOR... (2 POINTS)
 - o 1ST – If a man DESIRES to be a BISHOP... vs. 1
 - If (since) – the question is in the first-class condition – it assumes the answer is yes...
 - MAN (masculine pronoun) – as we discussed last week – this position is only for men...
 - DESIRES (middle) – 3x NT – stretch out to try and grasp something beyond our reach...
 - BISHOP – 4x in NT – the word literally means to oversee / watch over / examine...
 - Only here in NT used to describe the OFFICE / ROLE of a PASTOR in a church
 - A man may grasp for the role of a Bishop / Pastor – but it is a CALLING from the Lord...
 - Being a Pastor is not about an education – no diploma or degree can qualify a man...
 - It is not a profession – it is not a career – not a job...
 - It is not about collecting a salary – making money – or being famous...
 - It is a CALLING from God to LOVE and FEED His people!
 - Acts 1:4 – Jesus told the Disciples to WAIT...
 - WAIT for the promise of the Father – the baptism of the Holy Spirit...
 - If the disciples had tried to build the church on their own – if they had not WAITED...
 - The book of Acts would have ended with chapter 1 – there would be no church...
 - But because of the POWER of the SPIRIT – the Gospel went out into the world!
 - We often think in order to be used by God – we need to be trained / prepared...
 - That is why churches require men to have a college degree – preparation!
 - Preparation had its place – it is good to be a student of the Word – II Timothy 2:15

- The disciples had the BEST Bible College the world – 3 years with Jesus!
- But that was not enough – in order to be used they needed the power of God!
- You can have all the training and degrees – but if God is not with you – nothing...
- You can have no education – if God is working through you – you are unstoppable!
- The question is whether or not God has called someone to be a pastor...
 - If a person tries to step in and simply fill a role – the results can often be disastrous...
 - If they try to serve God in their strength – then they have to maintain the work...
 - But if God is the one who does the work then He is the one who maintains it!
 - **John 15:16** – “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain...”
- o 2nd - He DESIRES a GOOD WORK...
 - DESIRES (*different word*) – 16x in NT – from root word meaning to burn with desire...
 - GOOD - *kalos* - emphasizes the outward appearance of the goodness...
 - WORK – 176x in NT – business or employment – we might say JOB!
 - I once had a wise Pastor tell me – only be a pastor if you HAVE too!
 - **Jeremiah 20:19** – “His word was in my heart like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, And I could not.”
 - Being a pastor is not something someone CAN do – it is something they MUST do...
 - They see the lost world around them – and they just HAVE to do something...
 - They HAVE to tell people about Jesus – they HAVE to tell them about the Word!
- 3RD – SEVEN THINGS A PASTOR MUST BE... VS. 2 (7 POINTS)
 - o 1st – A BISHOP (*pastor*) must be BLAMELESS... vs. 2
 - BISHOP – *episkopos* – 7x in NT describing the ROLE of someone who oversees the church...
 - MUST be – these are not optional – they are necessary qualifications!
 - BLAMELESS – 3x in NT – does not mean perfect – but that he cannot be accused!
 - When we step out to serve the Lord – people are going to attack us...
 - So it is important that they do not give people any ammunition to work with...
 - What is ok for other people – is not acceptable for Pastors – a different standard!
 - o 2nd – A pastor must be the HUSBAND of one wife...
 - HUSBAND – meaning again a pastor cannot be a woman - **I Timothy 2:12**
 - Some say a pastor MUST be married – he is to have one WIFE...
 - This is likely not the meaning – Paul was not married – **I Corinthians 7:7**
 - There are advantages for a pastor to have a wife – if she has a heart for ministry...
 - She can minister to the women and / or children within the church!
 - But I have also known men who wanted to be pastors – and their wife stopped them!
 - Some also say a pastor cannot be DIVORCED / remarried – ONE wife...
 - This is also likely not the meaning - the Bible gives three allowable reasons for divorce...
 - The wife has an ongoing affair – the husband is free to remarry – **Matthew 19:9**
 - The wife is an unbeliever / leaves – the husband may remarry – **I Corinthians 7:15**
 - The wife dies – the husband is then free to remarry – **Romans 7:2**
 - A pastor should be blameless – he should not be responsible for the divorce...
 - But even then - there is grace – we are not defined by our past – just Jesus!
 - The husband of ONE wife – simply means he cannot have multiple wives!
 - o 3rd – A pastor must be TEMPERATE...
 - TEMPERATE – 3x in NT meaning they are not to drink alcohol...
 - Paul repeats this in **I Timothy 3:3** / **Titus 1:7** – NOT given to wine...
 - Can you imagine a pastor coming to Sunday service – drunk / or with a hangover...
 - The Bible does NOT say it is wrong to drink – but we CANNOT get drunk – **Ephesians 5:18**

- The ONE exception is for PASTORS – they CANNOT drink at all...
- Because a drunk pastor is not going to be able to teach the people!
- Because the Pastor is an example to the church – so he is not to drink ANY alcohol!
- o 4th – A pastor must be SOBER MINDED...
 - SOBER MINDED – 4x in NT meaning to have self-control...
 - Our minds are literally a battleground for the control of our actions – **Galatians 5:17**
 - Do we choose to live for pleasure / the moment – or do we live for the Lord...
 - A pastor needs to have self-control / not ruled by his emotions or desires...
 - So he can be an example for the church on how to live for Jesus Christ!
 - If we saw a pastor out gambling / or smoking at the local sari-sari store...
 - It would stumble a lot of people – so a pastor is held to a higher standard!
- o 5th – A pastor must be GOOD BEHAVIOR...
 - GOOD BEHAVIOR – *kosmeo* - 2x in NT meaning well arranged (*outward appearance*) ...
 - A pastor is to set an example by how he ACTS – he is to be a role model for the church!
 - Not that a pastor cannot joke / laugh / or be playful...
 - It is NOT a good example for a pastor to look like he has been sucking on kalamasi!
 - But a pastor needs to never forget the weight of his calling – he represents Christ!
- o 6th – A pastor must be HOSPITABLE...
 - HOSPITABLE – 3x in NT - the word literally means to be friendly to strangers!
 - A pastor should always be willing to open up his home / even to strangers...
 - Any time of the day / or night – willing to put on a pot of rice / offer cold water...
 - By doing so they show the Love of God to others – the goodness of God – **John 13:35**
 - So then they can tell others about the opportunity to know Jesus – **Romans 2:4**
- o 7th – A pastor must be ABLE TO TEACH...
 - ABLE TO TEACH – 2x in NT – meaning to be skillful / able to teach the Word
 - Pastors need to teach the Word - faith comes by hearing the Word - **Romans 10:17**
 - That means the pastor takes the time to study the Word – **II Timothy 2:15**
 - So that he can share the truth of the Word with the church!
 - Famine of the Word – **Amos 8:11**
 - The biggest problem in the world today - is people do NOT know the Word of God...
 - And the ones who should be teaching them - the leaders / pastors - do not!
 - **Hosea 4:6** - "My people are being destroyed because they do not know me. It is all your fault, you [pastors], for you yourselves refuse to know me."
- 4TH – FIVE THINGS A PASTOR CANNOT BE... VS. 3 (5 POINTS)
 - o 1st – A pastor must not be Given to WINE – we already talked about this
 - o 2nd – A pastor must not be VIOLENT...
 - VIOLENT – 2x in NT – **Titus 1:7** – looking to hit others...
 - I often get people trying to egg me into a debate on the church Facebook page...
 - They come looking for a fight – they want to get into an argument...
 - But there is nothing edifying about getting angry and yelling at others just to prove a point!
 - A pastor should not be looking for a fight – going out to pick a fight!
 - o 3rd – A pastor must not be GREEDY FOR MONEY...
 - GREEDY FOR MONEY – 3x in NT - always in relation to church leaders
 - The word means to get money by using dishonorable means – cheating others...
 - A number of years ago I was watching a Christian Tele-Evangelist on TV...
 - He said – if you do not send in money now – God will blame you for people going to hell!
 - Too many pastors today abuse the authority they are given in the church...
 - They use the pulpit as a means for personal gain - taking advantage of people...

- The result is people are wary of the church - the Gospel message become tainted...
- They are not there to love and feed the people – they come to cheat them...
- Those pastors who take from the people - fall under the judgment of God!
- **Ezekiel 34:2** - “Destruction is certain for you shepherds who feed yourselves instead of your flocks. Shouldn’t shepherds feed their sheep?”
- o 4th - A pastor must not be QUARRELSOME...
 - QUARRELSOME - 2x in NT – **Titus 1:7** – looking to get into a fight...
 - The same idea as a pastor must not be VIOLENT – but Paul adds the contrast...
 - A pastor should instead be PATIENT – more often translated as GENTLE...
 - A pastor should be GENTLE with people – wanting to hear the problems of people...
 - At the same time he should not argue with those who are sharing with him...
 - A lot of being a pastor is listening – do not rush in with their great wisdom...
 - Investing time in people – then they will be open to what a pastors says!
- o 5th - A pastor must not be COVETOUS...
 - COVETOUS – *a-phil-argyros* - literally to not LOVE SILVER (*money*) ...
 - A pastor should not be in ministry to see what he can GET from the people...
 - He should be in ministry to see what he can GIVE to the people!
 - **II Corinthians 12:14** – “I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.”
- 5TH – WHERE A MAN LEARNS TO BE A PASTOR... VS. 4-5 (3 POINTS)
 - o 1st - A pastor must RULE (*oversee*) his own house WELL...
 - RULE WELL - *kalos* - emphasizes the outward appearance of the goodness...
 - The outward appearance of the family of a pastor should be - SUBMISSION – all REVERENCE...
 - In other words a man should have proven himself as a PASTOR in his HOME...
 - If a pastor cannot RULE his own family – how can he take CARE of the church of God!
 - In many ways the family is the proving grounds for new pastors...
 - If a man does not pray with his wife and kids / read the Word to them...
 - Why would God trust you to read and pray and take care of HIS kids!
 - o 2nd – First Ministry - once a man becomes a pastor – he needs to keep loving his family...
 - Unfortunately – the kids of Pastors – are famous for being out of control!
 - Because the pastor spends so much time at church – he neglects his family...
 - Essentially his kids grow up without a dad – they are bitter towards God about it!
 - A pastor needs to make sure that he is taking care of his FIRST ministry!
 - o 3rd – Older kids – when a pastor has older kids who are out of control...
 - The responsibility of dads is to teach their children about Jesus – **Ephesians 6:4**
 - But there comes point when the kids are going to grow up and make their own decisions...
 - We can guide them – but in the end we cannot make their choices for them!
- 6TH – THE MATURITY REQUIRED FOR A PASTOR... VS. 6-7
 - o 1st – A pastor must NOT be a NOVICE... vs. 6
 - NOVICE – only here NT – to be newly planted - a new believer...
 - God is not in a hurry to put someone into a position of leadership...
 - Because fruit takes time to grow – we want to wait and see what God does in someone...
 - Because it is easy to give the title – almost impossible to take it back...
 - Give it time and make sure there is a calling of God on someone to be a pastor!
 - **I Timothy 5:22** - “Do not lay hands on anyone hastily...”
 - Lest being lifted up in PRIDE – he fall into the same condemnation as the devil...
 - Satan never went through any trials - he never lacked for anything...

- He went immediately into paradise / the worship leader of the heaven...
 - And one day he decided in PRIDE to claim to be equal with God - **Isaiah 14:14**
 - If a young believer is raised up too fast – no trials / never lacking anything...
 - He can get puffed up in pride – the sin of satan – and he will end up falling – **Proverbs 11:2**
- o 2nd – A pastor MUST have a GOOD TESTIMONY... vs. 7
- GOOD [*kalos*] TESTIMONY [martyr] – we would say a GOOD reputation...
 - Among those who are OUTSIDE – speaking of unbelievers – people NOT in church...
 - LEST – the pastor fall into the REPROACH and SNARE of the DEVIL [accuser]...
 - **I Peter 5:8** – “The devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”
 - Satan is like a Lion – and he is determined to devour us – destroy our lives!
 - Satan is the accuser - he desires to condemn us – **Revelation 12:10**
 - There is NO DOUBT – Satan has a target on the back of EVERY pastor - **Luke 22:31**
 - And he would love nothing more than to take down a PASTOR – cripple the whole church!
 - So it is critical that a pastor live a life that even among UNBELIEVERS – is above REPROACH!
- o 3rd - Often people look at this list – and think it is a TO DO list...
- Maybe someone says – I want to be a pastor – and that is a good thing!
 - But they look at the qualifications and think – who can be like this!
 - SEVEN things a pastor MUST be / FIVE things a pastor must NOT do...
 - Must have a good FAMILY / NOT a NEW believer / have a GOOD reputation!
 - But it is NOT a to do list – it is the what God is doing in us list...
 - Someone knows they ARE a pastor because they see God doing these things in their life!
 - Because it is not about a position – it is about the CALLING of God on a man...
 - The passion to LOVE and FEED His people – and build them up in their walk with the Lord!