

Title: The Elders

Text: I Tim. 5:17-25

Would you turn, please, to I Timothy chapter 5 and we will begin with verse 17. I Timothy chapter 5 verse 17. We have studied much from this letter concerning God's standard for the local church. And what the church should be doing. And who is to lead the local church. We have already studied from chapter 3 the qualifications of those who would desire the office of bishop. The word "bishop" can also be translated "elder" or "pastor" or "overseer". These words are used interchangeably in the Bible. And they are just referring to different aspects of the ministry/

Today, we come to Vs 17. And again our subject is the Elders who serve the church.

(Read I Tim. 5:17-25)

Join with me in a moment of prayer

Our Father in heaven, we pray that you would direct our thoughts to your Word. We pray that you would blot out of our minds that which is said of man. That which is man's opinion. That our minds may be open to the things that are of God. Speak to our hearts, we pray. For we ask it in the name of Jesus.....Amen.

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You will notice in Vs 1 of chapter 5 that it says in your KJ "Do not rebuke an Elder." This is a different Greek word than the word translated "elder" in Vs 17. In Vs 1, it is the Greek word for "an older man." "Do not rebuke an older man.

But in Vs 17, it says "Let the elders". It is referring to a specific individual. A specific person in the church. Paul is talking about those who are Pastors in the church. Those who are in the Pastoral leadership of the church.

Now, with this in mind I would like to share three things from this passage concerning the position of Pastor.....Three things....

(1C) First of all, in vs 17-18, THE REWARD OF ELDERS. God teaches there are rewards. And I would like to share two things about this reward.

(1D) There should be rewards in the church, (2D) and there is rewards at the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Now, as far as within the church. We have the simple statement in Vs 17: "let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor."

Now, what does that mean?...Double honor?...My own personal conviction is that double honor is referring, first of all, to their position as being an elder; and second to their duties as an elder. And both of those must match up before God, if they are to come under the reward of this passage.

"let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor."

There are two things that will determine this reward from within the church.

(1E) One, IS THEIR WORTHINESS. And that is based on two things in this passage. We read "the elders that rule well. The word for "rule" is the word "ADMINISTER." And the pastor of the church should be one who can administrate the church well if he is to be counted worthy.

(2F) But, secondly, as far as the work that they do in preaching, it says in Vs 17, "especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching."

It is sad that in so many of our pulpits and churches across America today, there is no longer the emphases on teaching and preaching the Word of God.

*and* In many denominations across our land, the Pastors are using what is often referred to as "caned Sermons." These are pre-written sermon outlines. I know off and I have talked with Pastors who use these caned sermons on a regular bases. And I know of many <sup>People</sup> Pastors who regard Preaching as no longer important. It is just something <sup>A Pastor</sup> they must do...And I wonder where the direction of the Holy Spirit of God enters. Where is the "laboring" in the word.

*no longer labor in the Word*

~~And~~ the answer I receive from many who use ~~these caned sermons~~ is that there is so much to do as a Pastor, this is one area that they need not labor in. But, my Bible teaches me that the job of the pastor, if he would be counted worthy, is to work hard(labor) in preaching and teaching." You have the concept of "exhaustion" in the word "labor." Those who labor in "preaching and teaching." Those will be counted worthy who put the emphasis on Preaching and teaching the Word of God. That is absolutely essential.....And the church will be counted worthy if they also emphases preaching.

(2E) But, there is a second thing that determines their reward. Not only their worthiness which is based upon the way they administer and there work in preaching and teaching the Gospel. But, also, the WORD OF GOD ITSELF. Vs 18, "for the scripture says." And there are two things mentioned.

(1F) First of all, from Deut. Chapter 25:4, "you shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing" The point is simply this: that when a man was out plowing his field and had his oxen at work, he was never to put a muzzle over his ox so that they couldn't eat some corn as they went along. That was the privilege of the ox, as he was working in the field.

(2F) And then he quotes from the N.T. Luke 10:7 Jesus said this: "the laborer is worthy of his wages.

Now, there is one thing that you might have over looked in this passage which I think is a marvelous truth. You will notice <sup>vs 18</sup> it says: "The scripture says," and then Paul quotes from Deuteronomy and from Luke. Notice the little word "AND" between the two quotes. You ask: SO WHAT? The word "and" in the Greek connects equals. They are treated on the same "par". They are the scripture. They are the Word of God.

So, what is the teaching? Who wrote I Timothy?....The Apostle Paul... But at the time of his writting, he didn't have what we call the Bible. It hadn't been put together yet. But, the Apostle writes to Timothy and says: "The scripture is both the O.T. and that Gospel we call Luke.

What a marvolous revelation came to me as I read and studies this passage of scripture. Those who would argue that the Gospel and the Word of God, the writters of the N.T., did not recognize the inspiration of God in other writers are completely overlooking this statement of Scripture. Paul, in this one statement, supports the fact that the early church, while the scripture was being written, recognized when it was God and when it was man. AND I AM THANKFUL FOR ~~THAT~~ <sup>This TRUTH</sup> ~~THAT~~

(20) SECONDLY, Not only ~~is~~ <sup>4:1</sup> the reward of ~~elders~~ <sup>(Pastor)</sup> to be in the church of Jesus Christ, now; but, also, at the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST. Would you turn over to the Book of <sup>2 Tim</sup> I Peter, please. <sup>2 Tim 4:8</sup> I Peter chapter ~~5~~ <sup>5</sup>:1-4.

Read I Peter 5:1-4 2 Tim 4:8

I say in all honesty, that I am thankful that God, one day, will reward us according <sup>for</sup> for what we have done for His glory. Because as a Pastor, I have come to sense the need ~~to~~ to look to Jesus and not to people. HAVE YOU SENSED THAT NEED TODAY? I am sure you have.

Many of us are looking for rewards and appreciations from people and they don't often come. And when they do, we often express them in the insincerity of our hearts. But, I am thankful that one day when Jesus comes all things will be made right. I am looking forward to hearing His words: "Well, done they good and faithful servant." Arn't you? I am sure you are. I heope you are living, today, for Jesus and not for self or, for what others think or say. I heope you are tired of standard setting that is often passed off as Christianity. The standard that judges people by the way that others live. I hope that you will evaluate your life according to what Jesus might say of you. So, there is a wonderful reward coming. And I am remaineded that all those who look for his appearing, all those who love his appearing( 2 Tim 4:8 says: "in the future there is laid up for us a crown of righteousness to all ~~those~~ who have loved His appearing." THANK GOD FOR THIS TRUTH.

## II.

(2c) Now, let us come back to I Timothy chapter 5. I Timothy chapter 5 and verses 19-21. In this portion of scripture, Paul deals with the subject of ~~THE ACCUSATION OF ELDERS.~~ "THE ACCUSATION OF ELDERS." The accusation of those who are in the position of leadership in the church. There are three things that I would like to point out to you.

(1D) First of all, as to RECEIVING THIS ACCUSATION. In Vs 19 we read: "Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses."

Now, that was O.T. law found in Deut. 19:15. But it was also supported by Jesus Christ in Matt. 18: "If your brother has something against you, go to him personal, (~~it~~ would be private to start with,) but if he wouldn't hear you, then take the testimony of two or three witnesses.

"Do not receive an accusation against an elder." You know, many people have "roast preacher" for dinner on Sundays. But, my friends, let me tell you something. The Word of God ~~means~~ exactly what it says.

"Do not receive an accusation, except on the basis of two or three witnesses."

I have had occasion in my ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> life concerning ~~a~~ <sup>and that</sup> a minister that I respected and looked to for advise ~~have~~ <sup>he</sup> failed before God and ~~they~~ <sup>he</sup> ~~have~~ SINNED. And oh, how I was disappointed and discouraged. But, if you have never heard it before, please hear it now, WE MINISTERS, ARE JUST LIKE YOU. We are just human beings who need pray and the forgiveness of God and need the power of the Holy Spirit. Just like anyone else. "do not receive an accusation against an elder."

(2D) Then, there is something else here. Notice Vs 20: "Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest, also, may be fearful of sinning."

The word "sin" is to "continue as a habit of life." That is very important. Every little sin and weakness <sup>of the pastor</sup> is not under discussion. It is a habit of life of sin. THEN, rebuke before all--publicly - so that others may fear and will not sinn.

5:58am  
26:7-11

A habit of life. A continuing course of sin. Remember King David. He was a great man who ministered to his people not only as a King but also as a priest. Who so often in his Psalms revealed the very heart of God. King David who committed ~~sin~~ adultery. David who committed murder. Yet, God said that he was a man after ~~his~~ <sup>WHY</sup> own heart. Because David knew how to repent. David ~~know~~ how to get back into fellowship with the Lord.

However, ~~then~~ <sup>Principle</sup> that continue in sin--rebuke.

(3D) Then, third, regarding the facts. And this is a tremendous principle for all of God's people. He said: "I solemnly charge you in the presence of God," (recognize that God will hold accountable) ~~to maintain these principles~~ <sup>to maintain these principles</sup> without WHAT? BIAS AND PARTIALITY. That is -- do not be Bias AGAINST and partial TOWARDS. It is hard to be objective - isn't it? Whether it be a minister or deacon or any brother or sister in the Lord. It is hard not to show BIAS and PARTIALITY.

III (Vs 22-25)

(3C)

Now, after looking at the REWARD OF ELDERS and the REBUKE OF ELDERS we come to the third thing that I would like to share with you. I have entitled this <sup>new</sup> point: THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE IN CHOOSING ~~A~~ <sup>A PASTOR</sup> ~~AN~~ <sup>ELDER</sup> What is the responsibility of the church in choosing a pastor? I believe the church has a tremendous responsibility. You see, God calls the individual. BUT, the church, according to the N.T., select~~s~~ <sup>S</sup> and call~~s~~ <sup>S</sup> out under the direction of the Holy Spirit, those who are qualified.

Are you familiar with the story of Acts chapter 13. The Holy Spirit spoke to WHOM? THE CHURCH. TO DO WHAT? TO SEND FORTH PAUL AND BARNABAS.

But notice the guidelines concerning <sup>The churches</sup> ~~our~~ responsibility in choosing a minister.

(1D) Vs. 22: the basic responsibility is simple. "Do not lay hands ~~on~~ upon anyone to hastily." Laying on of hands was simple <sup>away</sup> ~~of~~ identifying those

who had been called. It was, also, a symbol of the Holy Spirit's minister of anointing of that individual. "DO NOT DO THIS HASTILY." We studied in I Tim. 3 that one of the qualifications of a <sup>PASTOR</sup> ~~minister~~ was that he be a mature person in the faith. Not a new ~~believer~~ christian - <sup>NOT</sup> one who is new in the faith. "Do not lay hands hastily." I believe it should be a continual burden on a person's heart. A burden that will lead a person to say that I don't want to do anything else except to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ.

You might be here, today, saying what could God be saying to me about the ministry? You know, God doesn't just call young people. He calls people from all walks of life. You might have been in business for 5, 10, 15 years and yet God maybe calling you. I have seen this happen. God can take a person who says: ~~I have no talents~~ -- I have no talents--and use him in a mighty and power<sup>ful</sup> way. I have seen this happen. And I believe with all of my heart that God <sup>is</sup> ~~may~~ be selecting and choosing today as a part of his plan. He may be laying his hand upon people that I have no knowledge off; but I want to present it to you because I believe there is a need today for people to invest themselves, fulltime - 100% - in the preaching and teaching of the Gospel of Christ. I hope that if God is speaking to your heart you will listen to him.

But we don't want to be hasty because the Bible says "we will ~~be~~ be responsibly for the sins of others." If people enter the minister and they are not called of God, but we <sup>Talked</sup> ~~encourage~~ them <sup>into it</sup> and then they fail, we are responsibly for there sin. SO LET US NOT BE HASTITY.

(20) Now, Vs 23, I have the great desire to pass over this Verse, since it seems to be out of context. But I will not. It is not a problem. (Read Vs 23)

"Do not drink Water exclusively." In the days when our Lord lived, water was not a PURE ~~DRINK~~ DRINK. They did not have the filtering system that we have today. And so he says "no longer drink water", because water

~~The text continues...~~

The ISSUE, How, is ILLNESS

often caused stomach problems. It happened over and over again. By the way this was Timothy's problem. He was drinking a lot of the water that wasn't fit to drink. <sup>and He was Sick</sup> And so Paul says: Stop doing this Timothy. You have enough problems, and now you are sick because you are drinking too much <sup>of this stuff</sup> water. So, Timothy, use a little wine! NOTICE, MY FRIENDS, it says "USE" -- it ~~doesn't~~ doesn't say take or drink -- it says "USES". And, notice, it says "a little" not a lot - "a little." *Used as a medicine*

Would you also notice this: that when the word of God uses the Word "wine" <sup>it is the Greek word for</sup> ~~that it is~~ the fruit of the vine. The grapes would set a little and they might ferment. But, they did not have, in the days of Jesus, the alcoholic processing that we have today. The alcoholic processing whereby alcohol is added to the drink. But to drink the juice of the vine, why this was the safe and pure thing to do. It is funny how people mis-interpret this verse as well as <sup>others</sup> ~~do~~ in the N.T. ~~And~~ my friends, if you are using this Verse of scripture as an excuse for drinking an alcoholic drink you are really ~~making~~ <sup>backing</sup> up the wrong tree.

(30) Now, Verse 24-25: <sup>Paul</sup> presents the reason WHY we should not be hasty in putting someone into the ministry. Why? Vs 24: "The sins of some men are quite evident, going before them to judgment; for others, their sins follow after. Likewise also, deeds that are good are quite evident, and those which are otherwise cannot be concealed."

The point of the ~~passage~~ <sup>passage</sup> is simple: Don't be quick to put someone into the ministry without evaluating their life. What are their sins?? What are their good works before God?

SUMMARY

Now, as we summarize all of this, I recognize <sup>that</sup> what the Word of God is talking about ~~may~~ <sup>may</sup> refer only to a few people. But, I really believe it is referring to all of us. All of God's people in the body of Christ ~~has~~ <sup>has</sup> a responsibility before God, concerning the eldership. And personally God may be putting his hand upon you.



*Well, I know He is, but are you responding?  
You see,  
Bbb*

I wonder if God is speaking to some heart, here, today?

the real need is making ourselves available to God's leading. That is to be within calling distance of the Lord. ~~we~~, we, who call ourselves

Christians, <sup>are we</sup> really available to the leading of God. I am not just referring to the full time ministry. I am referring to the leading of God in all of our lives. <sup>In this deal - Teach - S.S - Nur - Dis - Visitation - Chon</sup> Our we available to be used of God in ministry?

To start doing the things we have been learning about in I Timothy. Our we willing? Regardless ~~of~~ the cost or the circumstance. <sup>I hope you will make this commitment,</sup>

*And*, If you have never accepted Christ, are you willing to follow the call of Christ to discipleship? You know, Christ died for you. He died that you might have life and life more abundantly. Are you willing to let Go of self and say to God: ~~Lord, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Lord, I confess my sin. Please, forgive me.~~ Lord, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Lord, I confess my sin. Please, forgive me." Are you willing to seek forgiveness? Jesus said that if we confess our sin he is willing and just and will forgive and cleans us from all unrighteousness." I pray that you will make that decision, today.

SHALL WE PRAY.

FATHER, we thank you for your Word. We thank you, Lord, for the amazing grace of God that is willing to count human effort as meaningful for the kingdom. How we thank you Lord for your grace and Love.

We pray, today, that if it be thy will, thy Holy Spirit will draw out of hearts ~~commitments~~ unto thee. People who will be willing to do what ever you call them to do. To be what ever you want us to be. May we make ourselves available to the direction of the Holy Spirit. May we say with Isiah: "Here ~~I~~ am I, Lord, send me." And, Father, if there are those who have never responded to <sup>the</sup> power of the Spirit and the Call of the Spirit in Salvation, may they respond today. May they in faith believing, repent, confess there sin, and accept thee as Lord.

We pray in the name and for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*and chrisian, I pray that you will commit yourself to  
The principle of Gods Truth here in I Tim*