

Daily Bible Studies

November 17-23, 2013

“Christian Leadership Profile”

Titus 1:5-16

Scripture of the Week

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

- 1st Peter 2:9-11

I have completed my Bible studies for the following days:

- ☐ Lord's Day & Monday
- ☐ Tuesday
- ☐ Wednesday
- ☐ Thursday
- ☐ Friday & Saturday

Signature



The Lord's Day and Monday

This week's reading comes from Titus 1:5-16.

Here is a question for you. Would you hire a man who doesn't know $2 + 2$ to teach you math? How about a man who does not know the difference between a hammer and a saw to build you a house? Of course you wouldn't, because certain jobs require people to know certain things and to do certain things.

The Lord has an important job in the Church and he doesn't "hire" any old person. People that are "hired" to be an elder in the church must meet certain criteria.

This week we will see what the criteria are that the Holy Spirit has given to us in order to determine if someone can be an elder or not. If someone meets the criteria, we say that they are **qualified**. If a person does not meet the criteria, they are not qualified.

We will also see that Paul told Titus to appoint qualified elders on the island of Crete for the purpose of protecting people from men who thought they were qualified but were not. In fact, the pretenders that Paul was concerned about were not only incapable of doing the ABCs of Christianity, but they also proved to be outright enemies of Jesus and His Gospel.

The Holy Spirit directed Paul and Titus to appoint elders who would protect the people from the false teachers and "fight" against them by teaching the truth.

Write down three things you learned from this week's study:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Suggestion for Prayer

Dear Jesus, Thank you for the study of your Word this week. Help me to take to heart the lessons that you have taught. Teach me how to love others. Amen

Pray for the Lord's Day Service

1. Pray that everyone would think it is important to come and be able to come.
2. Pray for Sunday School and Pastor Tim's sermon.
3. Pray that we would encourage each other to love the Lord Jesus.

Friday

The last reading of the week is Titus 1:12-16.

Today, Paul quotes a Greek poet named Epimenides. He was a man who had lived on Crete, so he would know a lot about the people that lived there and he would not want to insult them unless what he said was actually true. In the same way, we don't go around insulting Western New York unless there is some truth to our words. Why would we say bad things about the place we live, unless it were actually true. At any rate, Epimenides said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

Wow!

Paul says the false teachers on Crete were of the same character. They were evil, lying, lazy, fat people. Obviously they were not people to be followed, so Paul instructs Timothy to rebuke and correct them strongly. Titus was to be manly and not wimpy as he corrected them. Surely, the false teachers would not leave or change without a fight. With that being said, it is also very important to note that Paul wanted the false teachers to be rebuked not only for the good of others but also for the good of the false teachers themselves. He wanted them to be "sound in the faith." He wanted Titus' strong rebukes to be for their good.

It is certain that the false teachers needed a godly man like Titus to help them because Paul says that they were defiled and unbelieving. They were dirty, not their bodies, but their hearts and souls. They claimed to know God, but because they did evil things, it was evident that they did not.

Monday Quiz

1) List 4 qualifications for Elders out of verses 6-9.

2) Why do you think God gave such a strict criteria for being an Elder?

Suggestion for Prayer

Dear Lord, help this week as I study your Word. Teach me to humbly submit to the instruction that I receive. Show me how to honor the men that you have allowed to be in leadership over me at my church. Amen.

Pray for Family

1. Dad and Mom
2. Brothers and Sisters
3. Grandparents, Uncles and Aunts, Cousins

Tuesday

Today we will look specifically at Titus 1:5-6.

In verse 5, we find out that Paul had observed the churches on the island of Crete and had come to the conclusion that there were some major problems. Some things were lacking, he said. He told Titus that one of the biggest problems is that there are no elders and he tells Titus to find and appoint elders for the churches.

So what is an elder anyway? Why was it so important that the churches have elders? Well, elders are also known as presbyters, bishops, overseers, and stewards. The reason there are so many names for elders is that English and Greek words, as well as old and new words, are used to describe them. Furthermore, one word does not adequately describe what they are supposed to do. Let's look at a couple of these words.

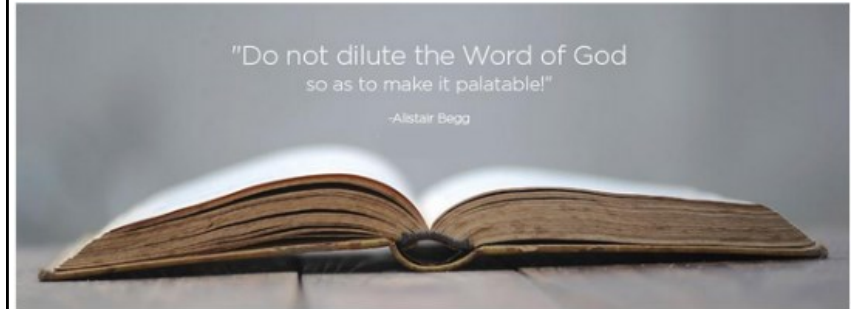
The word **elder** is indicative of maturity and wisdom gained through experience. An elder should not be sucking his thumb like a baby. He should be a man who has learned many lessons from God and His Word and has been transformed over time by the work of the Holy Spirit in his heart.

Next is the word **overseer**. The elder is to oversee or watch out for the people of the church. He is to look for trouble from enemies and also to check on the spiritual health of the church. He is on guard, alert, and ready.

Steward is the last word to look at. A steward is someone who can be trusted with very valuable things. A rich man might give a steward his bank account number and tell him to use it buy things for the rich man. How tempting would it be to buy a few things for yourself with the rich man's money? Well, a good steward would not lie and cheat. He would faithfully conduct the rich man's business. In the same way, an elder is given a great responsibility and great authority to take care of the Lord's Church. He must do his work honestly and diligently in the fear of the Lord.

How do we know who should and should not be doing these things? Paul continues to tell us that if someone is to be an elder he must be blameless, the husband of one wife, and have faithful children.

Blameless- You do not have to be perfect or sinless in order to be blameless.



Suggestion for Prayer

Father, give me wisdom and discernment so that I may know truth from error. Thank you that you have given me elders that watch out for false teachers. Keep your church from being deceived by idle talkers. Wash us in your Truth. Amen.

Pray for All Men

1. Dalton J. Burgett—Chair, State Council of Parks, Allegany
2. Rose Harvey—NYS Commissioner of Parks and Recreation
3. Jonathan B. Jarvis—National Parks Service Director

Thursday

Please read Titus 1:10-11.

Today, Paul describes the false teachers that were on the island of Crete. You may be wondering what false teachers from 2000 years ago have to do with you. That is a fair question, but remember that Solomon taught us that there is nothing new under the sun. There are still false teachers today and surprisingly they still teach the same things. We need to watch out for false teachers and know how to stop them when we find them.

Paul said that the false teachers were insubordinate and rebellious. They did not obey the Word of God or the teachings of the Apostles. They were lawless.

They were also idle talkers and deceivers. In other words, the things that they said were useless. They promised great things, but could not deliver. Their teaching lacked power to make people godly. Not only were their words powerless, they were full of lies. They deceived or tricked people. Instead of leading people to God and His Truth, they were leading them away. This type of deception reminds us of Satan who deceived Eve in the garden of Eden. (Genesis 3)

Why did the false teachers lie to people and teach things that were not true? Paul told Titus that they did it for dishonest gain. They were looking out for themselves only and used their positions of authority to take advantage of people. They were destroying entire families with their lies, so Paul said clearly that their “mouths must be stopped.” When the souls of people are at stake, the elders are to take decisive action.

At least not in the way that Paul means. To be blameless means that you do not have any major character problems that would discredit the Lord, His Word, and His Church. A blameless man is one that is well-respected by many people. A man who is well-known for outbursts of anger is not blameless.

Husband of one wife—This is pretty simple, right? First of all, in order to be a husband, you must be a man. Secondly, an elder must be someone who is faithful to his wife. In other words, he doesn’t not cheat on his wife with other women or by looking at pictures of other women.

Faithful children— The elder’s children might or might not be true Christians. Only God knows for sure, but it is fair to expect that an elder’s children have some evidence of salvation by being respectful towards the Word of God, the Church, and their father. If the children are wild hooligans that spit on the Bible, swear at the church people, and take orders from no one, I think it’s safe to say the elder has some work to do with his children before he continues to care for the Church.

Suggestion for Prayer

Heavenly Father, help me to learn from these qualifications how to live a life that brings you honor and glory. As I grow from day to day, teach me how to live with integrity before you and others. Thank you for your Word and Spirit to guide me. Amen.

Pray for the Church

1. Ms. Reta Fallon
2. Tim, Kim, Titus, Anna, and Joel Griffith
3. Bob and Dee Howard

Wednesday

Continue to read today in Titus 1:7-9.

Today we will see eleven characteristics of an elder.

1. **Not self-willed**—An elder should not be selfish and self-centered. His decisions should be made after consulting the Word of God and the advice of other godly people. He should do things for the good of others instead of himself.
2. **Not quick-tempered**—He should not become angry easily or because he is not pleased with the situation he finds himself in. He should not act like a baby who hollers when his toys are taken away.
3. **Not given to wine**—He should not be a drunkard.
4. **Not violent**—An elder should be peaceful and gentle, not someone who strikes people physically and emotionally.
5. **Not greedy for money**—An elder who rules well can and should be paid, but the elder should not give the making of money the highest priority in his ministry. He cannot point people to Heaven, while he has his eyes on the things of the world.
6. **Be hospitable**—The elder should love strangers. He should be generous and ready to meet people's needs. If someone needs a place to stay, he should be ready to take them in. If a Christian lacks necessary things like food or clothing an elder should be happy to help.
7. **Be a lover of what is good**—An elder should find joy in happiness in God and in the things that God loves. He should not be captivated by the evil that is present in this world.
8. **Be sober-minded**— He should not make quick judgments and decisions. He should weigh things carefully and think through things before acting.
9. **Be just**—He should be fair, not show favoritism toward one person, judge things without being partial.
10. **Be holy**—The elder should be a man who walks with God and pleases Him. He should be a man who loves the Bible and prayer.

11. **Be self-controlled**— An elder should know how to go to bed and get up at the proper times, how to use his money wisely, and how to eat right. He should not give in to his desire to sleep until noon, to buy everything he sees, and to shove his face full of food every hour.

Finally, Paul tells Titus that the elders must hold fast the faithful word. Elders must know and believe God's Word. They must be firm in their teaching since it comes from God. They should not bend and give in to peer pressure and popular opinion. Why does an elder need to hold forth the Bible? Paul says he must do this to encourage and help those that want to learn and be changed. Additionally, he must also do it to help those who contradict God's Word. Perhaps they will be won to the Lord through sound preaching and teaching.

Suggestion for Prayer

Dear Jesus, please be with the men that you have placed in authority in your Church. Help them as they seek to guide your people by your Word and Spirit. Amen.

Pray for Missionaries

Dan Doyle and Family, Nicaragua:

We arrived October 1 and haven't caught our breath yet. We got the girls registered for school and they just completed their first full week. The Nicaraguan kids loved their red and blonde hair. At the end of the day the girls told us, "They kept touching our hair and crowding around us!" The girls were so excited to make some friends.

We are still looking for a house. We have looked at many and have not found something that we are comfortable with yet. We may like the yard, but not the house or like the house but not the yard. **Please pray that the Lord will direct us to an affordable house in a safe neighborhood.** In the meantime, we are house-sitting. We are thankful for being able to stay in this home but also looking forward to finding our own home!