

Title: The Overseer

Passage: 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Draft Summary:

- The Overseer Is a good work (v.1)
- The Overseer is a slave (v.2-5)
- The Overseer is in danger (v.6-7)

Passage:

- An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but considerate, peaceable, free from the love of money; leading his own household well, having his children in submission with all dignity

Application:

- "Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith"
- Become a child of God
- Be sure that your overseers know they oversee your soul.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- Who is or was a Christian you admired? What about them impresses or had impressed you?
 - Which attribute in the passage is the most challenging for you to imitate?
 - What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?
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Introduction

Paul's prior admonition to the church leaders:

Acts 20:26-31a

Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert...

Passage:

1 Timothy 3:1-7

It is a trustworthy saying: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a good work. An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, eable to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but considerate, peaceable, free from the love of money; leading his own household well, having his children in submission with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to lead his own

household, how will he take care of the church of God?), and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation of the devil. And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

EXPOSITION

Introduction

- Great importance of leaders
 - as the leaders go so do the church.

Overseer

- meaning = over watching or to scope over
- Similar words = elders / pastors / shepherds

Overview

I. The Overseer Is a good work (v.1)

II. The Overseer is a slave (v.2-5)

III. The Overseer is in danger (v.6-7)

I. The Overseer is a Good Work (v.1)

It is a trustworthy saying: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a good work.

Five Trustworthy Sayings by Paul:

1 Timothy 1:15

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

1 Timothy 4:10

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

2 Timothy 2:11-13

The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us;

if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

Titus 3:4-5

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

1 Timothy 3:1

It is a trustworthy saying: if any man aspires to the boffice of overseer, he desires a good work.

- How is the last one a key trustworthy saying for the church?
 - We must be convinced the overseer is “a good work”
 - Why? The King Jesus is THE overseer

Luke 19:44

and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

- Jesus pointed to the word that “overseer” is based upon

1 Peter 2:12, 25

Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation...For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls

- Peter uses the same word and makes clear Jesus is THE overseer of our souls.

Who selects?

Acts 20:28

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

- The Holy Spirit

if any man aspires to the office of overseer,

II. The Overseer is a Slave (v.2-5)

An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but considerate, peaceable, free from the love of money; 4 leading his own household well, having his children in submission with all dignity 5 (but if a man does not know how to lead his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)

An overseer, then, must be above reproach,

- How? Whatever the Master says must be.
- Above reproach = irreproachable = beyond rebuke
 - Not sinless but his name be clean. Be a model for all others.

Characteristics:

the husband of one wife

- Meaning = a one-woman man
- This first characteristic relates to a woman

- Either happily married or gladly single

temperate,

- Clear-headed
- avoids extremities
- Not governed by his emotions

sensible,

- Makes sense and careful. Deliberate.
- Not hasty or lacks common sense or impulsive

respectable,

- decent, dignified with external appearance

hospitable,

- lover of strangers. Looking for new faces at church. Welcoming at his home.

able to teach,

- didactic = skilled in the Bible, gentle correction.
- His counsel is always from Scripture as his authority

not addicted to wine

- Not drunk with wine or influenced by the world's pleasures
- But be filled with the Spirit

or pugnacious,

- not an instigator or defensive or insecure as a character

but considerate,

- attentive, tender shepherds
- Reasonable and measured
- Not trigger happy, fast to accuse

peaceable,

- impregnable, unconquerable
- Not easily fired or panicked or thin skinned

free from the love of money;

- “Unmoney loving”
- May be rich but not live for riches
 - Not anxious to be greedy or accumulate wealth

leading his own household well, having his children in submission with all dignity

- what a man is in his home is what he actually is.
- the man is the one leading (not his wife)
- How? Well.

1 Thessalonians 2:10-12

You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

(but if a man does not know how to lead his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)

- Description of unqualified man to be a shepherd of in the church.
- The church is a family. How can one lead the family of God if one cannot lead their own family.

III. The Overseer is in Danger (v.6-7)

and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation of the devil. And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

not a new convert,

- fast growth is never a substitute for slow growth.
- knowledge of God slowly turns into knowing God.

so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation of the devil.

- Why? The least experienced are most susceptible to pride.
 - We must protect young believers to be puffed up by the smoke of their tiny flame.
- What happens if not?
 - Fall into condemnation of the devil
 - The devil is scheming to reproach the leaders of the church.

And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

APPLICATION

Become a child of God

- by faith in Jesus

John 1:12-13

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Be sure that your overseers know they oversee your soul.

- be a covenant member of the church.
- Be known as under the leaders in the church.

Hebrews 13:7-8, 17

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever...Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

- God created the church structure so as to bring Him glory.
- The standards of an overseer apply to everyone.
 - "Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith"

1 Peter 2:24-25

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

- let us trust our King and His design of the church and submit to the church leaders and build His church for His glory.

Proverbs 3:5-7

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.