

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

HOLDING THE MYSTERY OF THE FAITH IN A PURE CONSCIENCE

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SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 7, 2018

SCRIPTURE READING: **1 TIMOTHY 3:1-11**

1 Timothy 3:9, Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Please refer to the October 7, 2018 Evening Message for the Background.

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. As we reflect on our text, "*the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*" Let's focus our attention on the leadership of the local church.
- b. Therefore, the Apostle Paul leads us into something glorious. **1 Timothy 1:12**, *And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;*
- c. It is only fitting that we look at the life of Saul who later became Paul after his conversion. We will also look at other characters that society would deem them to be good in the eyes of man but truly lost in the eyes of God. We will also reflect on men that were considered bad by society whom God converted giving them the righteousness of Christ and made them fit for Heaven. **Ephesians 2:8-9**, *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*
- d. He goes on to say in **1 Timothy 1:13-15**, *Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious; but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14: And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 15: This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*
- e. When we start looking at the Book of Revelation, we find that God uses the local church in order to propagate the Gospel; in order to strengthen the saints, to work the ministry, and to edify the body of Christ.
- f. God is not the author of confusion. **1 Corinthians 14:33**, *For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*
- g. There should be no division among us. **1 Corinthians 1:10**, *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*
- h. Therefore, today we want to concentrate on **1 Timothy chapter 3** and look at some qualifications of leadership in the local church.
- i. Certainly, the local church is a congregational form and is run by the people of the church.
- j. However, there always must be someone who is in leadership. Today we will reflect on those leaders, those offices of the church and Gods qualifications for them.
- k. With that in mind, let's look at the meat of the message today.

3. TEN POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

- a. **This is a true saying.**
 1. **1 Timothy 3:1, This is a true saying.** *If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.*
 2. Let's look at the word 'true' for a moment.
 3. God indicates that this is the truth.
 4. We can rest assured that when we come to the Word of God, we have the truth.

5. The Preserved Word of God that Jesus Christ left in place is the written Word He has given us.
6. He tells us in no uncertain terms in **2 Peter 1:21**, *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*
7. This could refer to a faithful saying. We know that God is faithful, and He cannot lie. **Titus 1:2**, *In hope of eternal life, which **God, that cannot lie**, promised before the world began;*
8. This verse talks about the office of a bishop. *"If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work."*
9. We should have a desire to please God in whatever He has called us to do; but, we must not move ahead of Him.
10. The Lord will call, equip, and He will provide us with the resources that are necessary in order to accomplish His will.
11. Let's examine the term 'bishop' for a moment.
12. In many cases it has been misused and misinterpreted.
13. Bishop actually means an overseer.
14. God has never wanted anyone to be lord over His heritage. **1 Peter 5:3**, *Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.*
15. A bishop is an overseer or superintendant if you will.
16. The early church used different titles for the pastor.
17. A pastor was called a presbyter or an elder.
18. He was called a pastor or an under-shepherd, a bishop or overseer, or in some cases he was called a minister.
19. I have indicated many times before, that I do not want to be referred to as reverend. I believe that the term reverend should apply only to the Lord Jesus Christ, reflecting both His love and His wrath side.
20. We examined the word 'terrible' a few weeks ago. We have indicated that it speaks of the wrath side of God.
21. We understand there is a love side and there is a wrath side of Jesus Christ.
22. I believe that this word 'terrible' in the Scriptures has been misused and misquoted in many of the new versions of the Bible.
23. They have taken the word 'terrible' and replaced it with the word 'awesome.' Awesome means something good. KJV: **Psalms 47:2**, *For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth.* NKJV: **Psalms 47:2**, *For the LORD most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth.*
24. Of course, when we look at the leader of the local church, God has set forth certain positive qualifications.
25. We will look at some of those in just a moment.
26. Before I leave this section, I want to say that a pastor is called to be a servant. A servant for the Living God. We are not a shepherd, but an under-shepherd to carry out the mission of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

b. A bishop then must be blameless.

1. **1 Timothy 3:2**, **A bishop then must be blameless**, *the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;*
2. Let's examine each one of the positive qualifications in some detail.
3. *"must be blameless"* - means if one holds the office, we must be mindful that we are in a glass house. We are not to look at ourselves, but how does it affect a weaker brother or sister? **1 Corinthians 8:9**, *But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.*
4. We will be accused of a lot of things. We must make sure that those things are not true. **2 Peter 3:14**, *Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*
5. A bishop should be blameless; accused, but not guilty. **Matthew 5:10**, *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
6. *"the husband of one wife"* - Certainly has been misinterpreted by many. Many good men have been set on the shelf and placed on ice that could do a mighty work for God because of a misinterpretation. When God saves us, He wipes the slate clean.
7. I believe there are two meanings here. The first meaning is a bishop or pastor should be married. As a matter of fact, the Bible says in **1 Corinthians 7:9**, *But if they cannot contain, let*

- them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.*
8. The second meaning of *the husband of one wife* – this has nothing to do with whether one has been married before.
 9. It has to do with a pastor; bishop or elder should not have two wives.
 10. Polygamy and bigamy were very common in Paul's day.
 11. As a result of God speaking of this issue, the officer in the church should be the **husband of one wife**. This calls into question female pastors and preachers.
 12. We know that in the beginning, God intended one man – one woman for a lifetime. This is God's standard for mankind and is not to be ignored. **Genesis 2:24**, *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*
 13. *"vigilant"* – the leader or pastor should be temperate. As a matter of fact he should never blow his cool. **Galatians 5:16**, *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*
 14. He should recognize the fact that he represents the Lord Jesus Christ.
 15. *"sober"* – He is serious minded. It does not mean that he cannot have a sense of humor, but he must be serious in taking care of God's business.
 16. *"of good behaviou"r* – He should have a good report among the masses. We will not be able to please everyone and there will always be rumors that float around. We must always make sure that we are representing the Lord Jesus Christ in the very best light.
 17. *"given to hospitality"* – we need to be a kind individual. It needs to be a person who can be talked to. One who will listen.
 18. *"apt to teach"* – The Bible has indicated that there are pastor-teachers. This is something that is very important and is missing from the local church. **Ephesians 4:11-12**, *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12: For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*
 19. Not only are we to preach to the congregation, but we should also be able to teach the Word of God.
 20. Having looked at those positive qualifications, let's look at a couple negative qualifications that a pastor should never be involved in.

c. Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre.

1. **1 Timothy 3:3**, *Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre;* *but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;*
2. We have looked at several positive qualifications and it is only fitting that we should look at the negative side.
3. *Not given to wine*, - At one point, God told Timothy in **1 Timothy 5:23**, *Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.* It was used as a medicine.
4. Here God is speaking of alcoholic beverage. A pastor should refrain from it. I would advise members of the body of Christ, due to all the negatives that are associated with alcohol that we should restrain ourselves from its use.
5. *"no striker"* – He should not be violent.
6. *"not greedy of filthy lucre;"* - When a pastor gets his mind on money, as what he is getting out of it, he will get involved in the root of all evil. **1 Timothy 6:10**, *For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.* This does not say money is the root of all evil; it says the love of money is the root of all evil.
7. We must be careful to do God's work whatever the cost and stay where He has placed us.
8. *"patien"t* – one of the elements of the fruit of the Spirit is patience. **Galatians 5:22-23**, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23: Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*
9. In other words, he should be a reasonable person displaying the fruit of the Spirit at all times.
10. *"not a brawler"* – not constant stirring up trouble in the church; always willing to listen and be able to see things God's way.
11. *"not covetous"* – not practicing idolatry or the worship of money. He should not be a man who puts the pursuit of wealth above whatever God has called him to do.

d. One that ruleth well his own house.

1. **1 Timothy 3:4-5, One that ruleth well his own house.** *having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5: (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)*
2. The Bible indicates that judgment must first start at the house of God. **1 Peter 4:17, *For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?***
3. A pastor must be willing to look at himself in the mirror and line up and make sure he is doing those things that God has called him to do.
4. This verse tells us we are to take care of our own household. As a matter of fact, if we care not for our own house then we have denied the faith. **1 Timothy 5:8, *But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.***
5. The Bible speaks here of "*having his children in subjection with all gravity.*"
6. We must teach our children, guide and lead them. We cannot send them to church; we must take them.
7. When I was growing up we never had a Jr. Church. I am not saying I am totally against that, but we must understand that young people need to learn how to sit in the sanctuary and be quiet.
8. This is the reason why at Chesswood Baptist Church all of our youngsters, infants up to two years old are in the nursery. The others are in the church and they can sit and listen.
9. We do have an overflow or auxiliary nursery for the three and four-year olds if the parents think they need to be somewhere other than in the sanctuary. I would prefer that they be in the sanctuary all the time.

e. Not a novice.

1. **1 Timothy 3:6, Not a novice,** *lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.*
2. This means we must be careful as to how we use people who have recently come to know Christ as Saviour.
3. We must also be cautious in how we use people who have been in church many years but still do not know the Word of God.
4. We can very easily fall into pride. **Proverbs 16:18, *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.***
5. I find that many who come to know Jesus Christ as Saviour think that God has called them to the ministry, can get lifted up with pride.
6. "*lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.*" – it is either pride or it's the devil.
7. This is the greatest sin that pastors, preachers and teachers can get into.
8. We must be careful to guard against that.
9. If God has taught us something, we must be humble and be able to keep pride out.

f. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without.

1. **1 Timothy 3:7, Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without;** *lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*
2. To them that are without means those who are outside the church.
3. We will indicate several times during this message that we are not only to be a church that is contained in our building, but we are a church that should be transported to the community.
4. We should be out there doing things that will cause people to notice that we have been with the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. We must represent Him in every single thing we do. We cannot allow the devil to get in the midst of the process.
6. He gives us work. We are to go into the nursing homes, into the subdivisions and bring in the young people. We are to go into the prisons and jails, in the hospitals; wherever the people are. God expects us to do that.
7. Let's examine several qualifications of those who would aide or assist the pastor in carrying out his responsibility.

g. Likewise must the deacons be grave.

1. **1 Timothy 3:8**, Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;
2. Here, God gives us some negative qualifications of those that would assist.
3. If we were to go back to the book of **Acts chapter 6**, we would find out that in the early church there were men who were appointed to do the business of the church.
4. **Acts 6:3**, *Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.*
5. The word 'deacon' is the same word that is translated minister in some cases.
6. Paul and Apollos are called deacons. The Lord Jesus Christ is called a minister. **Matthew 20:28**, *Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*
7. In **Romans 13:4** government officials are called ministers. *For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.*
8. In **2 Corinthians 11:15** ministers of Satan have been applied to those who are not ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ. *"Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."*
9. The Bible gives us various qualifications, a deacon is to be grave – he should be a man of dignity and not doubletongued. **James 1:8**, *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.* We should not say one thing to one person and something different to another.
10. We are not to try to be all things to all people. We cannot please everyone.
11. We are to take a stand for God and be able to articulate as to why.
12. *"not given to much wine"*, - I believe members needs to practice total abstinence concerning alcoholic beverages. I do know that it is used as a medicine in some cases. **1 Timothy 5:23**, *Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.*
13. Because of the great problem we have with alcoholic beverages today, I think Christians need to bear a testimony for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and not use it as refreshment or as a drink.
14. It is a questionable area; however, this is your pastor's stand on that issue.
15. *"not greedy of filthy lucre"* – A deacon needs to make sure he is not in the business for money in any way.
16. **We need people of high integrity, of high moral values.** People in the church should hold leadership in high esteem.

h. Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

1. **1 Timothy 3:9**, Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.
2. Why is God referring to this as a mystery?
3. If you recall it was hidden from the Old Testament prophets. They did not have the idea that the church would one day come into existence and be called the Bride of Christ, composed of both Jew and gentile.
4. Now we know that it has been set forth and Simeon was the one who talked about it. **Acts 15:14**, *Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.*
5. We are also instructed to continue steadfast in the apostle's doctrine. **Acts 2:42**, *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*
6. We are to hold the *faith in a pure conscience*. God intends for us not to add, delete, or subtract from His Word.
7. I insist that God inspired His Word – the Bible and He also preserved it for all generations. **Psalms 12:6-7**, *The words of the LORD are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. 7: Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.*
8. The Word of God should be put in its rightful place
9. *"a pure conscience"* – Not with a conscience that has been seared. **1 Timothy 4:2**, *Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*

i. And let these also first be proved.

1. **1 Timothy 3:10**, And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon,

being found blameless.

2. God says that we are to prove some things.
3. We should be able to look at men and women and tell whether they are spiritual or not.
4. We should not have to listen to a long dissertation, or them to tell us they are spiritual. You can know for a fact, when you walk into someone's presence as to whether they are spiritual or if he is puffed up with pride.
5. God expects us to find people who are blameless concerning spiritual things.

j. Even so must their wives be grave.

1. **1 Timothy 3:11**, **Even so must their wives be grave**, *not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.*
2. Grave means to be calm and cool and collected.
3. The bible speaks of a meek and quiet spirit. **1 Peter 3:4**, *But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.*
4. She is not to be a slanderer, not a gossip. The Bible is very clear that we are not to let our mouth cause our flesh to sin. **Ecclesiastes 5:6**, *Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?*
5. "sober" – a serious minded person. "faithful in all things". – one of the things that is so difficult to teach the people of God is that we must be faithful to the calling of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know the Saviour? If you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, today needs to be your day of salvation.
- b. The Bible says in **Matthew 11:28-29**, *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29: Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*
- d. The Gospel is very plain and straight forward. **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**, *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4: And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*
- e. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- f. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- g. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- h. Would you please stand?

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