

/We will now begin the third lecture on 1 Timothy. /At this time we will look at 1 Timothy 3:1-7. /Chapter 3 teaches the qualities in choosing leaders in the church. /God chooses people so that they would do the work of God.

/Read 3:1. /Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task.

/It says, “Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer.” /The overseer refers to pastors and elders. /The servants of God must properly teach the Word of God. /They must teach properly so that believers can be protected by incorrect teachings of cults.

/The Word of God also prevents the corruption of believers. /Today there are various positions in the church. /Why did God set up different positions in the church? /It was for the kingdom of God and so that believers would serve in the church.

/The responsibilities of believers with positions in the church are substantial. /In 1 Corinthians 4:2, /it says, “those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.” /Today, every position in the church is entrusted to believers by God.

/To be “faithful” means /to serve unchangingly in his or her position until the end. /To be faithful means to make sacrifices /and diligently do one’s best. /The Bible teaches us to be faithful until the end.

/True workers of God must give up their lives and be faithful to God. /God gives the crown of life to the faithful, /and he uses them valuably.

/It also says, the overseer “desires a noble task.” /Today in the church, God’s workers /must desire noble tasks. /All works that are for God are considered noble. /If we want to desire noble tasks, God must be at the center of our hearts.

/To work for the church /and preach the gospel and lead people to God is to perform noble tasks for God. /Today in the church, overseers must work not for themselves, but for God.

/Thus, the most important work for God’s workers is to work for God. /Even though we may sometimes face losses or have to make sacrifices, /we must always make God’s work a priority and be faithful.

/There are many among God’s workers who work for themselves. /Yet, the Lord will soon judge them for their wickedness. /All of God’s workers will be judged by God according to whom they worked for.

/Thus, only those who are faithful to God can become valuable workers of God. /Then what qualifications must overseers have? /Verses 2-7 give us the answer.

/One must have five passive qualifications, /and must have nine aggressive qualifications.
/What are the passive qualifications of an overseer?

/Verse 2. /Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife,
temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

/First, an overseer must be above reproach. /This does not mean that one must be
perfect. /There is no one on this planet that is completely without sin.

/Those who are above reproach are those who are conclusively without faults. /How
much does one have to be morally and ethically without reproach? /An overseer must live
in holiness in all aspects of his life.

/He must have nothing that God will reproach him of, /and nothing that others will
reproach him of. /He must conscientiously have nothing to be reproached of, and then he
can be a good worker.

/To be above reproach means that one must not act in ways that will result in slander
from others. /He must be a good example before others, /and must possess character that
others will admire him of.

/Why do we look in mirrors? /We look to see if our hairstyles are okay, /or to check if
there's something on our faces, /or to see how we are dressed. /We must look in the
mirror to find our imperfections. /Today, God's Word is our mirror.

/When we have something to be scolded for through the Word of God, we must repent
and stand upright. /Also, if there is something in our consciences that need to be
reprimanded of, we must find it and repent. /Those who are without things to be
reproached of are those that meet the qualifications of an overseer.

/Second, /in verse 3 it says, /"not given to drunkenness." /This means that one does not sit
with alcohol. /Today, if a leader is to drink, /he will fall to debauchery /and make
erroneous choices, /and will lose his leadership by falling to Epicureanism and hedonism.

/The overseer is not to compromise with the world /and while living in the world today, /
must keep the chastity of faith. /The fall of today's leaders result in the fall of the
church. /The overseer must not make compromises with the world, /must not chase after
the things of the world, /and must not be tainted by secularism.

/The third qualification of an overseer /in verse 3 says, /"not violent." /Today, there must
be absolutely no violence in the church. /The church must be harmonious. /Believers
must not fight with one another but be at peace.

/Moses loved his people /and as a result, killed an Egyptian while attempting to save his
people. /He was trained in the wilderness for forty years, /then became a gentle person.
/Today, overseers in the church /must become gentle like Moses, and then they can lead

the congregation.

/Even if there are people who we may disapprove of, /all believers must come together in harmony. /What can we do to be at peace with one another? /We can only be at peace with one another when we have the heart of Jesus.

/We must be gentle like Jesus and then we can prevent arguments. /We must sometimes make sacrifices and yield to others so that there would be peace. /If we fight with one another in the church, we may lose the rights to be overseers of God.

/Even if there are people who bring damage to our lives, /or there are people who are like our enemies, /we must not despise them /but have hearts of mercy towards them. /When we fight with one another, God's righteousness cannot be attained.

/Fourth, /verse 3 says, /an overseer must "not be a lover of money." /Money continuously tempts us believers. /God's servants must love God first and foremost. /What did Jesus ask Peter three times so that Jesus would use him valuably?

/"Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" /Jesus asked Peter three times and then Jesus entrusted Peter with the Lord's great work. /Today in the church, the best worker is one who loves the Lord /more than the riches of this world /and more than honor and glory of this world.

/If overseers in the church today love money, /they will begin to fall. /Why were Adam and Eve chased out of the Garden of Eden? /They became enemies with God because of the greed in their hearts. /We must throw away the worldly greed in our human hearts.

/We must be clean of materialistic greed in order to be used by God. /Our lives must be self-sufficient /just as Paul confessed. /We must live with what God gave us. /If God gave us little, we must be wise in our spending.

/Also, if God gave us plenty, we must be more thankful to God and serve diligently in doing good. /Today, many people who love money leave God. /Take a look at Judas Iscariot. /He was a disciple of Jesus, /yet, how did the devil enter his heart?

/Judas loved money too much and so he became corrupted through the devil. /Today, God's leaders in the church /must exceed materialism. /We must be content with what God has given us in order to be God's leaders.

/What is the fifth qualification of an overseer?

/Verse 6. /He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.

/It says, "He must not be a recent convert." /If a recent convert becomes an overseer, /it is easy to become conceited /or leave God. /Thus, God's valuable workers /must be spiritually mature in their faith.

/Take a look at the leaders of nations. /Let's say leadership was given to a child. /Can the nation be at peace and be stable? /Only a mature adult can lead a nation.

/It also says, "He must not be a recent convert" because /one must be trained and prepared to be a good leader before God. /Thus, overseers need plenty of training. /Moses was trained in the Midian desert for forty years.

/Paul received training in Arabia for three years. /Even if one attended theological seminary, /one must have training in order to be a good overseer. /All of God's valuable servants have been trained and strengthened by God.

/It is easy to fall if one becomes an overseer without any training. /It is easy to become prideful /and want to give up when hit with difficult circumstances, /and it is also easy to become discouraged and distressed. /Therefore, one must receive and endure training to become a good overseer.

/The Bible also gives nine aggressive qualifications of an overseer. /What are these aggressive qualifications of an overseer? /In verse 2 it says, /the overseer must be "the husband of but one wife."

/Today's overseer must be the husband of one wife. /He must be able to manage his household to manage the church. /The church leader must maintain chastity in the home /and be faithful to his family to be able to faithfully lead the church.

/How can someone who is in constant conflict with his wife /lead the church? /Today's church leaders must lead their families. /Why did Rome fall? /The Romans thought that they would forever dominate the world.

/However, families began to fall and then Rome ultimately fell. /A Roman philosopher confessed, /"Patriot, protect your family." /Today, one's family must be healthy in order for one to be a good leader in the church.

/If the family is disorderly, one cannot lead the Lord's church. /Thus, a wife must assist her husband, /and the husband must love his wife. /One who maintains harmony in his home can be a good overseer.

/What is the second aggressive qualification? /Verse 2 says, /be "temperate." /To be temperate refers to the ability to control oneself. /This means to be spiritually awakened and conquer oneself.

/Today, the church overseer must be able to control his words and actions. /We also need the wisdom to control what comes out of our mouths. /We must not act however we want if we want to lead the congregation.

/Thus, the church overseer must take good care of himself. /How beautiful are our

lifestyles when God looks at us? /Are we setting good examples in the church and are we living virtuously? /When we speak too much we will make mistakes, and then it will become difficult to lead the congregation.

/The apostle James gives caution about this. /“If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man.” /Church overseers must be wise in being able to control what he says. /When one talks too much it will result in mistakes.

/We must be self-controlled in our actions as well. /We must know where we should go and where we shouldn't go. /If we wander around, we will lose time of prayer and will not be good examples to other believers.

/Self-sufficiency cannot be achieved through one's own strength, /but one must receive help of the Holy Spirit, always being awake in prayer. /Today, there are many cases of leaders who fail to be self-sufficient and fail.

/Third, in verse 2 it says, /be “self-controlled.” /Self-control refers to what's on the inside. /We must be careful in all circumstances. /One must have a healthy and upright mindset. /One must have a healthy heart to be able to discern between good and evil in all circumstances.

/Thus, the church leader must be internally healthy. /If we do not control our hearts, we cannot lead the congregation. /Our hearts must not be shaken in whatever the circumstance.

/Proverbs 4:23 teaches us: /“Above all else, guard your heart.” /Why is the heart so important? /Man's heart acts according to what his heart desires. /Those whose hearts are full of evil speak evil things.

/Those whose hearts are full of evil act in evil ways. /Our hearts must be filled with good so that we may speak good things, /do good, /and please God. /Man looks at the appearance, but God looks at our hearts.

/Today, overseers in the church must have upright hearts so that they may lead the believers. /Thus, the overseer must continuously examine his heart. /Is God in my heart?

/Those who have God in their hearts do not act in wickedness. /Even if one is a church leader, /if his heart leaves God /and the devil dominates his heart, /he will think wicked /and corrupt thoughts.

/Then factors that displease God will overtake his heart. /Thus, the heart of the overseer is extremely important.

/Also in verse 2 it says, /be “respectable.” /To be respectable means to /keep one's manners well. /Church leaders must keep his manners before God and before others.

/Why must we keep manners in our relationships with others? /It is so that leaders may keep their authority when they teach others. /If one does not keep his manners and live recklessly, /his authority will fall.

/The authority of the Word of God will also fall to the ground. /The church leader /must always be well mannered, /and must live a life that is exemplary. /Today in our relationships we must have a moral influence on others and have qualities that are worthy of respect.

/If we were to teach the Word of God /without the qualities of a leader, /that would interfere with the teachings of God. /We must keep our manners in the church in the midst of the congregation.

/People will be blessed when one who has qualities worthy of receiving respect /preaches the Word of God. /The church leader's words and actions must parallel each other.

/If the words and actions of a church leader contrast with each other, /then who would accept the leadership of leaders? /Thus, the leader must preach well on the podium, /and must behave properly so that he may lead the congregation.

/Today, there are many unfortunate events regarding overseers. /There are many whose actions in the church /greatly contrast the actions in their personal lives. /Today, though others may be fooled by our words, /God will not be fooled by what's in our hearts.

/How was David able to become a great leader of Israel? /He was aware of God's presence in every aspect of his life. /David led the Israelites before God, /he lived his life before God, /and he lived a life that was conscious of God. /Hence, David was able to be a good leader.

/What kind of leadership did Jesus have before the believers? /The Lord obeyed the Word of God and led the people. /How was the apostle Paul able to become a great leader? /He acted exactly as God told him to and led the people.

/Today, church overseers must examine themselves. /Am I an upright leader before God? /Do I have qualities that people will find respectable? /God gives power, gifts, grace, and blessings to those with good character. /Therefore, the overseer must live respectably.

/Verse 2 says, /fifth, be "hospitable." /Here, those who were to receive "hospitality" refer to /those who were persecuted and who suffered for the gospel in the early church. /They were faithful to the gospel, /were kicked out of their homes /and beaten, /and scattered to different parts of the world because of persecution.

/One must have the quality of hospitality to be an overseer. /Why did God give us time and materials? /It was so that we would show hospitality to others in cooperation with the gospel. /Our God emphasizes love.

/It says to love God upward, /then to the side /love your neighbor as your own self. /What is it like to love others today? /Love is followed by efforts and sacrifices. /Jesus came to this world to serve.

/Today, many people want to be served by others. /What types of people will be at the head in the kingdom of God? /They are those who serve generously on this earth. /God said that he would not forget to reward those who give others a cup of water in the name of the Lord.

/The church leader must continuously serve those who work hard for the gospel. /Leaders must serve with material goods, /serve with prayer, /and figure out what he can do to offer hospitality to others.

/We must be like Jesus and be leaders who serve others and love others.

/Sixth, in verse 2 it says, /be “able to teach.” /Today, church leaders must properly teach the Word of God. /Why were the believers of the early church able to change the world? /The apostles thoroughly taught the Word of God.

/Today, the church that properly teaches the Word of God is a good church. /Believers who receive the Word the God well are good believers. /One day, Jesus made a visit to Martha’s house. /The Lord was there with Martha and Mary.

/Martha was very busy preparing food. /However, Mary sat at the feet of Jesus and learned from the Lord. /Then Martha complained. /“Why isn’t Mary helping me?”

/Then Jesus spoke. /“Mary has chosen what is better.” Jesus complimented Mary. /Today we must preach well in the church. /Believers will serve God when they properly receive the Word of God.

/The Word of God is the standard of faith, /and the standard of our lives. /Then how can we properly teach the Word of God? /Today, the church overseer must continuously study the Bible and learn.

/Even if one graduates from theological seminary, /becomes a leader in the church, /becomes a pastor, /and becomes a professor of a seminary, /he must continue to learn in order to educate others. /Thus, church leaders must set times for themselves where they can study the Word of God.

/They must not only study the Bible, /but pray to God and receive the inspiration of the Holy Spirit so that they could teach. /The teachings of the Holy Spirit can change people. /We must accept the Holy Spirit as our Teacher to receive the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

/“Holy Spirit! Please help me understand the Word.” /Why do those who teach need the

help of the Holy Spirit? /It is because the Bible was written through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. /Without the works of the Holy Spirit, it will be impossible to teach even one thing.

/If we live as we are, we will never be able to teach well. /The leader must first live according to the Word for the Word of God to have authority and power. /Also, the leader must repent of his past lifestyle to properly teach the Bible.

/In order for us to teach well, we must have confidence in the Word of God when we teach. /Though the knowledge of the world may change, the Word of God will never change. /God's Word saves the soul, /changes lives, /and heals.

/Those who hear the Word will come alive and be changed. /Today it is important that church overseers properly teach the Word of God. /Even if they are skilled in many other ways, they will encounter difficulties as a leader if they do not correctly teach the Word of God.

/Believers must be blessed by the Word for their faith to grow, /to serve in the church, /and live in devotion to God.

/Seventh, in verse 3 it says, /be "gentle." /To be "gentle" means to hide others' weaknesses. /Today, church overseers must have generous hearts. /They must be kind and spiritually discerning.

/One must have the heart of the Lord to have a heart like this. /Today, overseers are in charge of many people. /There are people who are kind, /who are wicked, /and those who attack the leaders. /The overseer must be gentle in heart to lead such groups of people.

/The eighth qualification is in verse 4. /Read verse 4. /He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.

/One must manage his own family well in order to manage the church. /One's leadership in his household is connected to his leadership in the church. /Today, the starting point of one's life is his family. /Therefore, the overseer must be a good example in his home, /and must manage his family well so that he may be a good leader in the church.

/The ninth qualification is in verse 7. /Read verse 7. /He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

/Lastly, one must have a good reputation with outsiders. /We must have a good reputation before those who do not know God. /Why must we have good reputations before others who do not know God?

/If the church leader falls, /he will cover the glory of God, /will fall into the devil's trap, /and will be hindered from spreading the gospel. /The church leader must have qualities that even the people of the world will admire and respect.

/Here we will conclude the third lecture on 1 Timothy. /Thank you.