

/We will now begin the fourth lecture on 1 Timothy. /The main text is 1 Timothy 3:8-16. /1 Timothy 3:8-13 teaches /the qualifications of deacons within the church. /What does it mean to be a deacon?

/To be a deacon means /to be a servant. /A “servant” is a messenger, /and is one who does as his master tells him. /A deacon also refers to a steward. /How well does one take care of what God has entrusted him with?

/Deacons in the church take care of the church of God. /A deacon is also a servant. /Servants do not live as they please, /but are messengers and workers of their masters.

/Servants have no personal possessions. /Everything belongs to the Lord. /Whoever obeys by doing as the Lord tells them are those who are faithful to their calling as deacons. /Deacons are also the church’s workers.

/This position is not given to someone for honor /but given so that one may do the work of God. /A deacon is one who serves. /God gives one the position of a deacon so that they would serve the church and serve other believers. /God gave us health and time /so that we would serve God.

/The Lord gave us various gifts /so that we would serve the church of God. /Then why did God set up deacons? /It was so that believers would be intact. /Today in the church there are those who are weak in their faith /and there are new believers.

/To serve them well is to serve God well. /Deacons must serve diligently in the church. /They must sometimes serve through materials, /sacrifice their time, /and wholly devote themselves and serve God’s church.

/Deacons must be useful in the church of God. /Today, there are people who become deacons in the church, /yet bring damage to the church. /A church deacon must not ever cause damage to the church.

/Deacons in the church must fulfill their calling /and be faithful to their faith. /They must be faithful in worship, /and take care of themselves through continuous prayer. /They must evangelize to unbelievers.

/Deacons must be sacrificial and faithful when serving the church. /Deacons must also be faithful in giving offerings. /One does not deserve to be a deacon if he does not give tithes.

/Then how must a deacon serve in the church? /Deacons must help the servant of God. /They must cover up the flaws of church pastors and ministers. /They must work together with pastors so that they could fulfill their calling as a fellow worker.

/Romans 16 /records the names of Paul’s fellow workers. /They were believers who worked /and helped Paul by laying down their own lives. /Today in the church, those who

earnestly help the servants of God are good deacons.

/Deacons must also help the church. /They must make sure that there are no divisions within the church, /and must make sure that all believers are in harmony with one another. /Jesus spoke about this.

/"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." /The sons of God must take the lead in bringing about peace in the church. /Yet, there are those who do the opposite. /Those who cause conflict in the church will not receive blessings.

/They will be sons of the devil. /The devil stirs up discord /and cause believers to drift away from pastors /and from the church. /Then what attitude must a deacon have for his service to be considered beautiful? /His heart must always be voluntary when he serves.

/There are always complaints when one is forced to do something. /A deacon must always voluntarily work for God in the church. /A deacon must give thanks to God when he serves.

/Even if there are difficulties in the church, /we must be thankful that we are being used by God. /Today, no matter how we serve in the church, /we must do it with thankfulness so that we may please God.

/I always teach this in the church. /When you wash dishes in the church kitchen, or do difficult tasks, /if you are going to complain, do not go into the kitchen. /God is pleased when we serve with thanksgiving, even if the work we do is difficult.

/Also, one must serve with faith. /What does it mean to serve with faith? /It means to obey the Word of God, and make God happy. /There are many people who encounter temptations when they serve in the church for their own name and honor.

/When we serve in the church we must not expect glory for ourselves, but give glory to God. /Deacons must give glory to God after serving in the church.

/Those who serve for their own honor /will not only be tempted in their heart, /but none of their service will mean anything to God. /In 1 Corinthians 3:15, /there is a man who builds two kinds of spiritual temples.

/One person builds his house with wood, hay or straw, /and another builds his house with gold, silver, and costly stones. /They built the same spiritual temple. /One person built a temple that would burn in fire, /and the other built a temple that would not burn in fire.

/What is the person who built his home with wood, hay, and straw like? /He is a person who worked for himself. /Today there are those who use the name of Jesus /and use the name of the church /for his own name.

/These people will receive neither recognition nor rewards before the Lord. /Those who

serve genuinely for God /are those who built their houses with gold, silver, and costly stones. /These people will have an abundance of rewards in heaven.

/According to our faithfulness, there will be some who built their houses with gold, /with silver, /and those who built with costly stones. /Even in the Olympics, /those who place first receive gold medals, /second place receives silver, /and third place receives bronze.

/Today when we serve with faith before God, we will receive these glorious seats. /What qualifications must a deacon have? /Take a look at verse 8.

/Read verse 8. /Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain.

/First, deacons are to be worthy of respect. /Today in the church, deacons must behave with respect. /They must be virtuously /and keep order in the church. /What is one's position in the church? /One must not leave his place but be faithful in his position.

/Deacons must serve by ushering people to their seats for worship /or pray as a representative of the believers, /and must dress respectably as they serve. /We must especially dress decently when we go before God.

/Second, /verse 8 says, be sincere. /This means that one must not be inconsistent with the words that come out of his mouth. /There is a lot of talk in the church. /Today, church deacons must speak properly.

/They must be responsible for what comes out of their mouths. /Today when I speak in the church, do the things I say benefit others? /Am I speaking in ways that are kind towards others? /Does the person to whom I am speaking to benefit from what I say?

/God will judge us according to the things we say. /We must use proper language in the church. /We must discern what is okay to say and what is not okay. /What does the Bible say about speaking?

/“If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man.” /The writer of Psalms confessed. /“Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD.” /Today, deacons must be careful with what come out of their mouths.

/Would it be okay for me to say this? /Only the words that will be a benefit to the church will receive compliments from God. /Third, it says to not indulge in much wine.

/One can fall to pleasure and Epicureanism when he drinks. /When deacons drink, they lose self-control. /Some say, “It is okay to drink if we do not get drunk.” /However, Proverbs 23 says, “Do not gaze at wine.”

/One glass of wine will lead to drunkenness. /When one becomes drunk, he will lose discernment and unable to do his work. /Fourth, it says, do not pursue dishonest gain.

Verse 8. /What is dishonest gain? It is to gain benefits for oneself through dirty ways.

/When we gain material goods, we must do so justly. /If our goals are good, the means by which we achieve them must be good. /Judas Iscariot stole material goods habitually. /Church deacons must achieve material goods by working diligently for them.

/In Genesis 3, /God commanded that we work hard so we that may eat and live. /Today, deacons who dishonestly gain material goods will lose the rights to be deacons.

/We must get rid of greed in our hearts. /Why do so many people covet and sin? /People sin because of greed. /People kill others to fill their greed, /and choose wicked ways as well.

/There are those who are not picky with their ways and methods. /Why are people tempted when we become deacons? /They are easily tempted because of the greed in their hearts. /Deacons, especially, must get rid of worldly greed and greed for money.

/Fifth, verse 9. /Read verse 9. /They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.

/One has the right to be a deacon if he holds on to the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. /We believers have good consciences in our hearts. /“Good conscience” is the conscience that is controlled and governed by God. /Unbelievers do not feel guilt when they don’t attend church on Sundays.

/However, believers feel guilt when they do not attend church on Sundays. /Unbelievers do not feel guilt when they don’t pay tithes. /However, believers feel guilt when they do not pay tithes.

/We must have consciences that are controlled by the Word and the Holy Spirit. /Those who work diligently in the church /are those with good consciences. /They are those who are honorable in their consciences. /The apostle Paul confessed. /“I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day.”

/What did the apostle Paul emphasize to Timothy? /As was mentioned in chapter 1, /“Timothy, /hold on to faith and a good conscience. /Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith.”

/Today, deacons must have clear consciences in order to be good deacons. /Nowadays, the church has become corrupted and it has become difficult to find people with good consciences. /We can become good deacons with clear consciences, and then the church will be able to continuously develop and grow.

/1 Timothy 3:9 says, the deep truths of the faith. /What are the deep truths of the faith? /It signifies those who are confident in their salvation. /Even if one is a deacon, there are many who are uncertain of their salvation.

/Only those who are confident of their salvation can give thanks to God in their hearts, /and can fear God. /They can evangelize to many others as well. /There was one believer in our church. /He was a deacon. /Someone asked the deacon a question.

/"Do you like attending church?" /This deacon did not have confidence of salvation in his heart. /The deacon could not answer that he liked attending church. /"It's all right," he replied.

/If the deacon had confidence in his salvation, /he would have given the answer, "Believing in Jesus is amazing." /He would have replied with confidence that if one believes in Jesus he would be a child of God and enter heaven.

/Deacons must have confidence of salvation to lead people to God. /In verse 12 it says, seventh, a deacon must be model figure in his home.

/Read verse 12. /A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.

/"A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well." /A believer must set a good example in his home so that he may do the same in the church.

/With these seven qualifications, /it says to see and test whether one has these qualifications to be a deacon or not.

/Read verse 10. /They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

/It says to first test people, and then if there is nothing against them, they could serve as deacons. /Workers in the church must be chosen well so that there may be peace in the church. /There will be damages in the church if workers are not chosen carefully.

/Deacons must have these qualifications and hold to these principles so that the church may be healthy and see growth. /Verse 11 teaches the deaconesses how they should behave.

/Verse 11. /In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

/It says that deaconesses are also to be worthy of respect. /They are to be respectable in behavior, /be respectable in their speech, /and must be women who are good examples to others.

/It also says that deaconesses are not to be malicious talkers. /To be "malicious" means to tell lies. /It is easy for women to tell lies for their own advantages. /Church deacons must

always be truthful. /God despises malicious talk.

/Lies are qualities of the devil. /Only the truthful are those who belong to God. /Deacons in the church must always be truthful. /Then God will help them, /and will use them.

/Third, deaconesses are to be temperate. /This means that they are self-controlled. /They are self-controlling in their words and actions, /and are disciplined in every aspect of their lives. /It also says to choose people as deaconesses who are trustworthy in everything.

/How unchanging is she in her faithfulness? /Today, those who are temperamental cannot be good workers. /Only those who are unchanging in their faithfulness, /responsible in the work that is given them, /and those who serve sacrificially can be good workers in the church.

/What kind of blessings will God give the faithful deacons? /Verse 13 tells us the rewards they will receive.

/Verse 13. /Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

/Those who have served well as deacons will gain an excellent standing. /“An excellent standing” means that God will use them even more greater than before. /Those who are faithful to even the smallest works will be given greater works by God.

/God will give them more important works and will use them more greatly. /These deacons will be acknowledged by God, /and will be respected by people. /What is the second reward that deacons will receive?

/It says they will receive “great assurance in their faith.” /What is great assurance? /It is courage of faith. /God will pour out more grace /and one will grow in their faith to become a competent person.

/In the Bible, /God used those who were faithful in the smallest things. /Matthew 25 tells of /the parable of the talents. /The man who received one talent did not work, but buried his talent in the ground.

/He was called a wicked and lazy servant, and what he owned was taken from him. /Those who were given two talents and five talents produced double the amount they were given. /What did our Lord say then?

/“Well done, good and faithful servant! /You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.” /Our Lord did not only compliment them /but said that He would use them for greater things.

/I pray that you will all have these qualifications of deacons, /be faithful deacons, /and gain courage as beautiful and important people.

/Now, verses 14-16 teach us the mystery of the church.

/Read verses 14-15. /Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

/Verse 15 says, "if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. /The church of the home of God. /There is peace in the home of God. /There is God's comfort in the home of God.

/Where is a place where we can rest in peace? /It is your home. /It says that today's churches are God's home. /The church must be a model of heaven that is overflowing with love.

/Those who have been hurt by the world and suffering from hardships find peace when they come to church. /Today's churches must be a place where one can find comfort in the Word of God, /and experience a taste of heaven. /God gave churches that they would be models of heaven.

/When one comes to the house of God and prays, he can have a relationship with God. /One can also meet God through worship. /Today's churches have been given to us as a place of spiritual training.

/We must be able to experience heaven through the church, /and must be able to experience the grace of God. /The church is also "the church of the living God." /Who is the master of the church? /The master of the church is God.

/We must serve God as our Master. /We must do as the Master tells us /and we must live according to his will. /Why are there so many conflicts and hardships in the church today?

/It is because believers fail to serve God as their master. /Believers in the church attempt to be the master. /Churches today do not belong to pastors, /ministers, /or deacons.

/The church belongs to God. /Today, we must serve God as the master of the church and receive his guidance so that the church can become a beautiful place. /Then what is the mission of the church? /The church is the pillar and foundation of the truth.

/Today, the church has been built on the foundation of Peter's confession of faith. /The church is the pillar and foundation of the truth. /The church is a place where the gospel is preached to save souls, /and has the mission to teach the Word of God and lead the sheep to God.

/Why do churches today fall easily? /It is because churches stray away from its duties. /Today's churches are the only hope in the world. /The church must teach the truth of God and build up the truth. /Even if the world changes, the truth must never change.

/We must also preserve God's truth and pass it down to our descendants. /Heaven and earth may change but the Word of God will remain unchanging. /The church has the mission in forever preserving the truth of God. /Then what is the mystery of the church?

/Read verse 16. /Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

/The church has a great mystery. /This great mystery is an amazing secret. /The mystery is the gospel, Jesus Christ. /It is a mystery because people of the world cannot know Jesus Christ.

/Only those who have been born again through the Word and the Holy Spirit can recognize this mystery. /Only the church today can recognize this mystery. /Those who are spiritual dead cannot know God and cannot know heaven.

/Only those who have been reborn after having been dead in sin can know this mystery. /One must have this mystery to be God's worker and keep their hope in heaven. /It also says, "the mystery of godliness is great."

/This means that the mystery lies in God. /It does not lie in the world, but it spiritual and lies in God. /The mind of man cannot and will not understand the mystery. /One can only be aware when God shows it to him.

/All believers can recognize this mystery. /It says, "Beyond all question." /Those who have been born again in the Word and the Holy Spirit can know this mystery. /Then what is the mystery of Jesus Christ?

/Here in verse 16 it says, /"He appeared in a body." /Jesus is fully God, and came to this earth as fully man. /Jesus came in human form to this earth, but is without sin.

/Jesus is also "vindicated by the Spirit." /Jesus died on the cross, rose again from the dead in three days, and was clothed in righteousness. /There are two significant pillars in Christianity.

/One is that Jesus died on the cross because of our sins. /The other is that Jesus resurrected from the dead in three days. /If there were no cross or resurrection, we would not be saved or be able to enter heaven.

/Do you believe in the cross and the resurrection? /We must believe that Jesus died for our sins and rose again in three days, then we can be forgiven of our sins and be saved. /People of the world do not understand this.



/They ask, “What does the cross of Jesus have to do with me? /They ask, “How can a person come back to life when he dies? /Yet, Jesus died on the cross and surely came back to life in three days.

/Jesus conquered sin and death through His resurrection. /We can be resurrected because Jesus resurrected. /We have received the mystery of the gospel that will allow us to live forever.

/Today, those who believe in Jesus are those who have received the amazing grace and blessing of being able to live forever. /It also says, “was seen by angels.” /Angels testified to the birth of Jesus. /God told people about the birth of Jesus through angels.

/Angels also testified to Jesus’ resurrection. /Who did they first give the news of resurrection to? /Mary Magdalene was the first to meet the resurrected Lord. /Mary Magdalene had unchanging faith.

/She deeply loved the Lord, /and diligently served God. /She sacrificially served the Lord. /The resurrected Lord will come and meet those who have faith like that of Mary Magdalene.

/It also says, “was preached among the nations.” /Today, the gospel is being preached in all parts of the world. /Jesus preached to many souls, /gave the mission of evangelism to the disciples, /and gave the mission of evangelism to all churches through the nations.

/Jesus said, /“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.” /What is God most pleased with in the church? /It is the works of saving souls.

/We must share the gospel with those closest to us, /and share the gospel to the ends of the earth. /Why did the Holy Spirit come as Helper in the New Testament times? /The Holy Spirit came so that we may live to testify to the Lord to the ends of the earth.

/What does it say in Acts 1:8? /“But you will receive power /when the Holy Spirit comes on you; /and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea /and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” /We must receive power of the Holy Spirit and live as the Lord’s witnesses.

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