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| 11 Timothy 3:1-7 Sermon Outline 01/28/24“Who Is Qualified To Lead The Church?”Part I INTRO: You are crew member about to embark treacherous journey through Atlantic Ocean Two choices/captains: 1. Captain = experience in sea, but shipwrecked couple of times, lost crew members, lost sense of direction, drifted off course and panicked 2. Captain = experience in sea, but never shipwrecked, never lost crew members, never lost sense of direction, never drifted, fought off most terrifying waves Which one would you choose to be under? 1st one or 2nd one? | 2You need someone who lifts standards up for you to follow Not someone who drags standard down MAIN THEME: Paul is going to show you qualities of a godly servant so that if you are aspiring to be one you know what is required of you…and if you aren’t one then these are the goals you should strive to. REVIEW: Ch. 1 Timothy revolves around glory of gospel. It’s at stake because of false teaching -Misusing law = salvation = rather than for sinners -Law = point us to Christ Ch. 2 Nature of this gospel = for all men Gospel is not particular to certain ethnic group |
| 3Gospel should compel you to pray for salvation of nations and rulers  -even for rulers like Nero!Temptation not to pray for salvation but destruction Gospel welcomes all Response? 2:8 Men should lead church in prayer with holiness 2:9 Women need to focus on inner beauty not outward beauty Need to submit to men in leadership and husbands in home 2:15 Respect and obey glorious ordering of the church by not subverting creation order Be submissive wife/woman = faithful mother  | 4Ch. 1 = false teachers unqualified to lead churchCh. 2 = women unqualified to lead church“Who Is Qualified To Lead The Church?” Title of sermon Ch. 3 will answer that question 3:1 *“It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.”*Several things: 1. Must be man, not woman2. “aspires” = epithumeo = strong desire -Negative context = lust -Positive context = passionate drive/compulsion Signs = do you have that compulsion for ministry and nothing else?  |
| 5Ask yourself the question: “Can I see myself being content doing anything other than pastoral ministry?” If yes, then that’s a sign maybe pastoral ministry isn’t for you If no, maybe God is preparing you for pastoral ministry ILLUST: Alex Montoya“what would I do if I wasn’t in ministry? Sell drugs, I guess” 3. “overseer” = episkopos = episcopalian denom. = oversee/care KJV = “bishop” Sorry Steve, weren’t not going to go with KJV translation Please don’t call me “bishop Teru”  | 6If you do = mind as well put on pointy red hat and a robe Three words interchangeably NT same thing = episkopos = bishop/overseer presbuteros = elder = presbyterian denom. poimein = shepherd/pastor Ex: Acts 20 20:17 = Ephesian “elders” 20:28 = “*Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers* (there’s that word episcopos)*, to shepherd* (there’s that word pastor, shepherd)*the church of God which He purchased with His own blood*.”Goal of sermon = not get into different types of church government but… |
| 7It’s clear churches led by at least one elder/pastor I know technically my title is “senior pastor” but I just happen to be another elder or you can say pastor of preaching and teaching And if church is able = plurality of elders = normal practice of church Ex: 1 Tim. 5:7 “elders” not singular “elder” who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor Ex: 1 Peter 5:1 “*Therefore, I exhort the elders (plural) among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you*…”Makes sense plurality of elders instead of single elder because more wisdom and accountability that way Ideal situation for church leadership  | 8Going back to text 3:2 Overseer must be “above reproach” = summary of what follows Some trans. = “irreproachable” Idea = not that he is sinless but that nothing sticks in accusations While not required for everyone else in church, still is goal for everyone in church Because closer you can get to faithfulness and moral character = closer you are to Christ’s character So… firstly “above reproach” = husband of one-wife = lit. a “one-woman man” Likely mentioned first because weakest link in the chain Number one weakness in men  |
| 9Debate = “husband of one wife” but means simply = faithful to your wifeAbsolutely devoted both romantically and sexually to your wife alone It obviously means he is not married to multiple women at same time But it also includes way he acts around other women  -Not flirtatious  -Guarding his heart and emotions around other  women not his wife  -Includes discerning in choice of words when  complimenting the appearance of woman to not  give wrong impressionConduct themselves in front of females that no questions raised for his sexual integrity “One-woman man” = most certainly pornography = adultery of the mind  | 10Well over half of pastors have struggled with it at one point or another Currently 1/20 pastors struggle with it currently, could be higher because not all pastors probably share their struggles publicly Habitual lust could disqualify you from ministrySo much more fit into category = point = is he faithful in speech, conduct, and frame of mind Next “Temperate” = lit. “wineless” “unmixed with wine”wine = opposite of temperate idea of alert, watchful, vigilant, clear-headed Thirdly, “Prudent” or “sensible” = result of being temperate  |
| 11Prudent = well-disciplined man serious about spiritual things Pic. Temperance leading to prudence 1 Pet. 4:7 *“The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound thinking and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.”*Paul not meaning overseer be cold, humorless and absolute kill-joy to be around You’ve probably met some who seem to be grumpy about everything or overly serious about everything Important = pastor to have some kind of humor Important = genuinely fun person to be around Characterized by friendliness and be someone genuinely approachable ILLUST: I met some pastors scary to approach not fun to be around “I wouldn’t want him to be my pastor”  | 12Overseer further to be “respectable” = *kosmios* = “cosmetics” = orderly appearance Goes along with prudent life where = not characterized by chaos and disarray Generally life = diligence and discipline “Hospitable” = two Greek words “philo” + “xenos” lit. lover of strangers We don’t quite see impact of being hospitable today Ancient hospitality = inns dangerous, dirty, immoral, robbers and criminals would stay at, prostitution So opening up home is God-send for a traveling stranger Hospitality not like today where you let someone crash at your couch for the night and you don’t see him in the morning  |
| 13Hospitality back then = attend every meal and see him off with provisions/food/medical supplies, etc. Some even go portion of journey with him to make sure he’s safely on his way Hospitality was a big deal in that culture Overseer needs to have that kind of generous spirit however that looks like today Sixthly = “Able To Teach” The qualification difference between elders and deacons Elders must “be able to teach” Deacons don’t have to teach Able to Teach = doesn’t mean necessarily skillful at teaching (it helps) He might be dry in his teaching  | 14Can He communicate God’s Word clearly? Might not be most charismatic, but have dry personality, but that’s ok Might not teach in pulpit, but can he teach in small group, one on one, adult class? 3:3 “Not addicted to wine or pugnacious” Goes hand in hand Pugnacious “pugilist” = old word boxer Solves problems with fistsBut “pugnacious” = verbally aggressive Explodes like volcano at rebuke, correct, disagree = disqualified Prob. 20:1 “*Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.*” |
| 15Proverbs isn’t done w/ subject three chapters later = Pic = ensnared in wine Turn to Prov. 23:29-35 “*Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long over wine, Those who go to search out mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it glistens red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it goes down smoothly; At the end—like a serpent it bites, And like a viper it stings. Your eyes will see strange things. And your heart will speak perverse things. And you will be like one who lies down in the heart of the sea, Or like one who lies down on the top of amast. “They struck me, but I did not become ill; They beat me, but I did not know it. When shall I awake? I will seek yet another.”*Describing exactly what happens during intoxication Utter perverse things from lips  | 16More prone to get violent or be beat up by others and not remember it Vicious never-ending cycle Back then = wine more common than water because water = impure/unsafe to drink Typically made 8 parts water to 1 part alcohol = heavily diluted 12.5 percent Of course still could get drunk with enough of it 1 Tim 5:23 = Timothy abstained from it but got sick and ill from only drinking water. So Paul encouraged Timothy to drink some wine for medicinal purposes COMPARE TODAY: Whiskey = 70 percent alcohol, ratio almost flipped Way more intoxicating than ancient process  |
| 17I would venture to say if Paul alive today, he would tell us just abstain from it completely We don’t have the problems in ancient world with water, there are plenty of other things to drink But wine was sort of all they had to drink Yes, I suppose pastor can drink wine once in while not get drunk but three things to consider for those of you who love that verse in 1 Tim. 5:23 because you just gotta have that glass of wine with your steak dinner Number 1:You may know your limit of drunkenness = 6th beer  -Obviously can’t go there You may “high tolerance” for alcohol Truth is as soon as alcohol enters your bloodstream already tipsy whether you realize it or notAlready on your way to that drunken state  | 18Number 2:If alcohol lit. destroy a man’s life (which it has for many) where ruin marriage, career, losing everything why would you ever dabble in something that could potentially ruin your life even if you are the most disciplined alcohol drinker“Well that will never happen to me. I know better than to get drunk like those fools.” Hmm…I’m sure many of those in alcoholics anonymous have said the same thing before their lives were ruined Far more risks than benefitsNumber 3: Suppose you had wine only once a year during Christmas  |
| 19Even that one time you drink could potentially stumble a brother or sister in Christ who was saved out of that lifeIs your insistence on being able to drink alcohol really worth your brother or sister in Christ stumbling into sin? Remember Jesus’ words = it is better for a millstone to be hung around your neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea than for you to cause one of these little ones to stumble It is better to stay away from alcohol entirely Instead of being addicted to wine and pugnacious overseer = gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money Put off vices, put on virtues“Gentle” = considerate, forebearing, overlooks wrong  | 20-Does not keep track of those who hurt him/grudgesCritical elders/pastors/overseers = accept criticism Many leave ministry because they can’t Part of ministry is learning to embrace criticism from people Some = true Some = not true Some = in between If you are easily offended by people, it means you don’t take criticism well Not gentle = who is prideful = not humble = could be domineering Leads to next word: “Peaceable” = “Uncontentious” = reluctant to fight ILLUST: I knew of seminary student who was a fighter  |
| 21He always seemed to turn any topic into argument or fight Serious anger issues/full of pride = disturbing Not a pleasant guy to be around/uncomfortable One of those who doesn’t listen, likes one way conservation This man must be = free from love of money Usually love of money heart of most false teachers in NT 2 Pet. 2:15-16 = false teachers in church as having “*followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness*.”Paul in Acts 20 farewell address Ephesian elders  | 22“I have coveted no man’s silver or gold” In fact so intent on making sure he was blameless in this area that decided to get income not from ministry but from tent-making He had every right to make living off gospel but didn’t Chose to instead do gospel free of charge Money didn’t have to do anything with motivation for gospel Then 3:4 *“he must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)”*LSB“*leading his own household well, having his children in submission with all dignity.*” |
| 23“leading” lit. “ruling” assumes men lead church and home Why does Paul bring up home as qualification? Because whatever he is private = public Also home = first ministry/easier one So if fail home = how will he take care of the other household of God which is harder? He must have children in submission to his leadership “submission” = same word for women= hupotageOverseers lead children such a way = respect him Not necessarily saved, but obeying house rules Under control, dignified life Respecting your authority, obeying you  | 24For example:Not having drunken parties against your will Not inviting sketchy friends to do drugs3:6 “*he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.”*One of greatest dangers facing new pastor = “pride” Humility = essential quality needs to be in anyone seeking pastorshipGeneral rule = stepping into leadership role not ready for = disaster ILLUST: Like giving car keys to your 8 year old and telling him to drive Likely crash and injured/killed  |
| 25Lacks physical capability Lacks mental capacityLacks discernment Lacks maturity Lacks experience to drive Similarly…unwise to put new convert into leadership position -Might have charismatic personality -Might be very intelligent -Might grasp biblical doctrine faster than anyone you know But that still does not qualify him as overseer “Time and truth go hand in hand”  | 26Only time will reveal the truth of that man’s character after he has walked with Jesus for some time ILLUST: Friend from seminary who got into leadership position but fell away quickly -Even worse if he became a pastor right after conversion We were all shocked about this -You wouldn’t have inkling of doubt he was not believer -Now question whether he was truly believer in first place Pride was what brought Satan down Ez. 28 Satan = “seal of perfection” “full of wisdom and beauty”  |
| 27been on “holy mountain of God” serving as “anointed cherub who covers”but…he was “cast down from the holy mountain” = pride You don’t want that to happen nor do you want to share in that responsibility of putting that man in leadership Overseer = overseer only when considerable amount of time passed Only when mature in faith and faith tested over time No hard and fast rule for this = looks different for different people Probably first couple of years for believer for anyone too fast for overseer Finally 3:7  | 28“*he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into the reproach and the snare of the devil*.”Again, devil is mentioned twice in row = witness in world What is his reputation among: -Nonbelieving Family? -Friends? -Community? -Workplace? Although non-believers hate gospel, usually can tell if your tone of voice, demeanor, attitude is loving They usually can see hypocrisy if you don’t measure up to profession  |
| 29ILLUST: David Hume, 18th cen. Humanistic Philosopher going to hear George Whitefield preach Is overseer generally kind to everyone including unbelievers? Is he outstanding moral individual with integrity and dignity? Nothing delights Satan more than setting traps for believers to fall in that brings him reproach in front of watching world Nothing brings him more pleasure than discrediting him before world Is he same person in the church as he is outside of the church?   | 30CONCLUSION: Qualifications are high because we need: -Most holy -Most righteous-Most disciplined-Most loving servant-leaderTo lead church in that direction But I hope as we were going through these, you saw that these qualifications are not just for those pastors, but goals for to strive to Maybe you meet some of them Maybe you need to work on othersGod gives more grace and He is faithful These are not unattainable standards  |
| 31By leaning on power of Holy Spirit and grace of God and abiding in Christ, anyone can achieve these standards regardless of whether church leadership or not 1 John = Jesus’ commandments are not burdensome if you love Jesus, no commandment too burdensome for you If already throwing in towel looking at these commandments as burdensome maybe…-you don’t love Jesus enough -you are trying to fulfill them by your own strength “I just need to try harder!” No, no, no What you need is to rely on Christ’s power and grace to fulfill these commands | 32Only Christ can enable you to fulfill high calling of believerPray to Lord to increase your love and trust for him that power of Christ can be exalted in your life But what about you who haven’t trusted in Christ? All these standards/qualifications = God’s character God’s mirror of perfection = show you how sinful you are That you have not been sensible, considerate, peaceful, content, free from the love of money, you have lusted There is coming a day of judgment…Where everyone judged according to what they have done One day give account as God unrolls tape of your life  |
| 33Sentence: eternal condemnation in hell But Jesus went into courtroom took your place as guilty one, paid your fine, and gave you to certificate to present to Judge that you are declared righteous by the atoning work of Christ No longer guilty, sinful, condemned to hell But innocent, righteous, accepted into heaven If you turn from sins call on Jesus for forgiveness God Judge = God your Father He will adopt you into His family So that you can live as redeemed son and daughter forever for His glory Cry out for salvation while you still can Let’s pray  | 34 |