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| 1  1 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? | 2  You 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 |
| 3  Gospel 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 | 4  Ch. 1 = false teachers unqualified to lead church  Ch. 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 woman  2. “aspires” = epithumeo = strong desire  -Negative context = lust  -Positive context = passionate drive/compulsion  Signs = do you have that compulsion for ministry and nothing else? |
| 5  Ask 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” | 6  If 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… |
| 7  It’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 | 8  Going 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 |
| 9  Debate = “husband of one wife”  but means simply = faithful to your wife  Absolutely 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 impression  Conduct themselves in front of females that no questions raised for his sexual integrity  “One-woman man” = most certainly pornography  = adultery of the mind | 10  Well 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 ministry  So 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 |
| 11  Prudent = 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” | 12  Overseer 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 |
| 13  Hospitality 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 | 14  Can 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 fists  But “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.*” |
| 15  Proverbs 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 | 16  More 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 |
| 17  I 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 not  Already on your way to that drunken state | 18  Number 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 benefits  Number 3:  Suppose you had wine only once a year during Christmas |
| 19  Even that one time you drink could potentially stumble a brother or sister in Christ who was saved out of that life  Is 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/grudges  Critical 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 |
| 21  He 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= hupotage  Overseers lead children such a way = respect him  Not necessarily saved, but obeying house rules  Under control, dignified life  Respecting your authority, obeying you | 24  For example:  Not having drunken parties against your will  Not inviting sketchy friends to do drugs  3:6  “*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 pastorship  General 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 |
| 25  Lacks physical capability  Lacks mental capacity  Lacks 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” | 26  Only 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” |
| 27  been 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 |
| 29  ILLUST:  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? | 30  CONCLUSION:  Qualifications are high because we need:  -Most holy  -Most righteous  -Most disciplined  -Most loving servant-leader  To 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 others  God gives more grace and He is faithful  These are not unattainable standards |
| 31  By 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 | 32  Only Christ can enable you to fulfill high calling of believer  Pray 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 |
| 33  Sentence: 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 |