
[INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD IN THE LETTERS FROM PAUL

DEDUCTIVE LESSON THREE

1 Timothy 3

Day One: Verses 1–13

1. What is a faithful saying, according to verse 1?

2. The qualifications of an elder or bishop (literally, overseer) are found in verses 2–7. List these qualifications below, separating the things he should be from the things he should not be:

An overseer should be:

An overseer should not be:

Scripture Memory: Fill in the missing words from memory.

“God was manifested in the _____, _____ in the Spirit, seen by angels,
preached among the _____, believed on in the world, _____ up in glory.”
__ Timothy 3:16b

Day Three: Verses 1–13

Reread 1 Timothy 3:1–13.

Why are bishops and deacons needed in the church? Let’s look at an Old Testament and a New Testament example that illuminate the need for these overseers.

First read through Exodus 18:7–27 and answer the following questions as you read.

1. Who came to visit Moses, what news did Moses give him, and what was his reaction (verses 7–11)?

2. Then what did Moses’ father-in-law do, in verse 12?

3. The next day, what did Jethro observe?

4. What question did Jethro ask, and what was Moses’ answer (verses 14–16)?

5. What was Jethro’s pronouncement about what he had observed (verses 17–18)?

6. Summarize Jethro's advice to Moses, in verses 19–23.

7. Moses heeded the advice of his father-in-law. The text does not tell us the results of this change, so speculate: What effect do you think this change had on Moses, on his ministry, on the multitudes, and on those whom he appointed as overseers?

Now read Acts 6:1–7, and answer the following questions as you read.

1. What problem did the early church experience, according to verse 1?

2. What plan did the twelve disciples put into action to address this problem?

3. Why was this good for the twelve, for the seven, and for the church?

4. It is difficult to tell if verse 7 was a result of the previous six verses, or just something that happened after them. What do you think?

1. What does Paul hope, in verse 14?

2. Why did Paul write these things to Timothy (verse 15)?

3. For the rest of today's study, we will pick some words out of your Scripture Memory passage, in which Paul describes Jesus Christ. In the references below, Jesus is mentioned along with these descriptive words. Summarize what they say, below. (As always, make sure to read surrounding verses if you need to better understand the context.)

Jesus + manifest (1 John 1:1–3)

Jesus + flesh (John 6:53)

Jesus + justified (Romans 5:1)

Jesus + Spirit (Matthew 3:16–17)

Jesus + angels (Hebrews 2:9)

Jesus + preached (2 Corinthians 1:19)

Jesus + Gentiles (Galatians 3:13–14)

Jesus + believed (John 8:31)

Jesus + world (John 8:12)

Jesus + glory (1 Peter 5:10)

Scripture Memory: Write out the complete Scripture Memory verse below.

" _____

_____ " _____
_____ : _____

Day Six: Personal Application

1. Whether or not you desire the position of a bishop or a deacon, the qualifications listed in this week’s study are traits that we, as Christians, should all be working on. Skim through verses 1–13 one more time, and identify one item on the list that you need to work on most. Ask the Lord to give you some ideas for improving this area of your life.

2. Take a few moments to pray for the pastors and elders here at Harvest Christian Fellowship. Thank God for their service and ministry to the church.

3. If you are a husband and/or father, what are some ways that you can “rule your children and your own house well?” If you are not a husband or father, pray for someone close to you who is—that God would give him wisdom in his role.

4. Could you describe your life as “blameless?” Would other people? Ask the Holy Spirit to examine your heart and reveal to you any spots or blemishes in your spiritual life. (Don’t rush through this.) Once identified, ask the Lord to clean and polish these spots, that you might live a life that is blameless.

