

THE CHURCH AND THE ELDERS

I Timothy 5:17-25

Intro:

- A. Paul has left Timothy in Ephesus
 - 1. He is to instruct the church in all matters where they are having difficulty.
 - 2. There were men who were perverting the doctrines and the work of the Elders.

- B. There are many relationships in the assembly.
 - 1. There are the common ones, older women.
 - 2. There are the unique, such as widows and slaves.
 - 3. Paul now addresses the Elders in particular.

I. The Elders Of The Church.

- A. Vs 17 "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour,..."
 - 1. "Rule" = ποιστημι = "to stand first", Here it means the general superintendence.
 - 2. "Counted" = ἡγεομαι = "to be in the front of your mind".
 - 3. "Worthy" = αξιω = "to regard as deserving".
 - 4. "Double" = διπλους = "double", "twice".
 - 5. "Honour" = τιμη = "honor", "honorarium".
 - 6. These men who do a good job of directing the assembly should be regarded as deserving a very special consideration. They should be held in high esteem and also receive adequate pay.

- B. "...especially they who labour ion the word and in doctrine."
 - 1. "Especially" = μαλιστα = "very, most of all".
 - 2. "Labour" = κοπιαω = "to labour", "to work until one is exhausted".
 - 3. "Word" = λογος = "word" = "word of God".

4. "Doctrine" = διδασκαλια = "teaching", "what has been taught"
5. The idea of double honour, respect and pay, should be most of all applied to those who preach the word and who teach the doctrines of Christ. This idea is contrary to most situations because those involved in evangelism are generally paid better and looked upon as doing the "real" work of God.

II. The Basis Of The Elders Support.

- A. Vs 18 "For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn..."
 1. "Scripture" = γραφη = "writing" = word of God.
 2. "Muzzle" = φιμω = "a device placed over the nose of an animal that prevents it from eating".
 3. "Treadeth" = αλοιω = "to beat", "to drive around in a circle, especially oxen doing the work".
 4. Deut. 25:4 - "thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn."
- B. "...and, the labourer is worthy of his reward."
 1. "Labourer" = εργατης = "one who expends energy".
 2. "Worthy" = αξιος = "equal value", "deserving of"
 3. "Reward" = μισθος = "wages", "hire", "pay".
 4. Deut. 24:14-15 Luke 10:5-8
- C. God's divine plan.
 1. II Timothy 2:5
 2. I Corinthians 9:7-14

III. The Elders And Accusations.

- A. Vs 19 "Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses."
 1. "Receive" = παραδεχομαι = "to entertain", "to accept by the assembly and give credence to".
 2. "Accusation" = κατηγορια = "that which is brought against someone", "charge", "legal charge".

3. "Don't accept an accusation against a Pastor" BECK
"Unless it is certified by..." - MOF

B. Vs 20 "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear."

1. "Sin" = ἁμαρτανω = "to miss the mark".
2. "Rebuke" = ελεγγω = "to bring to light", "to convict someone", "to correct", "demonstrate".

IV. All Elders Should Receive Equal Treatment.

A. Vs 21 "I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels,..."

1. "Charge" = διαμαρτυρομαι = "to admonish solemnly", "to testify through and through".
2. "I solemnly command you" - TAY

B. "...that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality."

1. "Observe" = φυλασσω = "to guard and not sleep".
2. "Preferring" = προκριμα = "judge before".
3. "Partiality" = προσκλισις = "a leaning against", "an inclination towards".
4. "That you act with no favoritism" - BER

V. Elders Should Be Observed Before Ordination.

A. Vs 22 "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partakers of other men's sin: keep thyself pure."

1. "Suddenly" = ταχως = "quickly".
2. "Partakers" = κοινωνω = "to share in common", "to have something in common with others".
3. Timothy should not thrust caution aside because of the urgency of God's work and ordain an unproven man and thus share in his failure.
4. "Pure" = ἄγνος = "pure from any kind of defilement".

B. Paul now realizes that Timothy may over-react to his command. Vs 23

1. He had stomach problems.

2. He had re-occurring illnesses
 3. He should not injure his health for the sake of not being misunderstood.
- C. A man's failures will sooner or later be manifest. Vs 24
1. "Open beforehand" = προδηλος = "clear", "evident", "openly plain, plain before all".
 2. "In the case of others, they show up later".
- D. A man's good works will be known. Vs 25
1. "So also the right actions of some are obvious"
WEY
 2. "...and those they conceal cannot be kept hidden"
CON
- E. "These things teach and exhort"
1. "Teach" = διδασκε = "teach thou".
 2. "Exhort" = πρακαλεω = "to encourage".
 3. "Continue to teach and preach this" - MON

VI. Some Facts To Learn.

- A. God's thought are not our thoughts.
1. Slavery was not a sin.
 2. Missing church was a sin.
 3. This is contrary to man's thinking.
- B. The nature of sin.
1. Owning a slave was not a sin.
 2. Mistreatment of a slave was a sin.
 3. Paul did not rebuke Philemon.
 4. Sin is what offends God.
 5. The Magic Johnson debacle.
- C. What is important.
1. Personal liberty is of less importance that soul-liberty, that is salvation.
 2. Saved slaves are in a position to serve God.
 3. Naaman the leper was informed of Jehovah God's power by a Jewish maiden.

- D. Our personal circumstances are not relevant to our opportunity to serve God.
1. This thinking has affected our actions.
 2. Some think they can't witness because they can't come to the church house at 6:30 Thursday night.

