

THE DEACONS

I Timothy 3:8-13

Intro:

- A. Paul has instructed Timothy in regard to the office of a bishop.
 - 1. He must be blameless. Vs 2
 - 2. He then lists the areas of one's life where he could be subject to criticism.

- B. Paul now gives Timothy instruction concerning the office of deacon.
 - 1. **"Likewise must the deacons..."**
 - 2. "By the same token..." - BER
 - 3. "Deacons, in the same way..."
 - 4. This means that the deacons are also to be blameless; vs 10 - **"being...blameless"**
 - 5. **"Deacons"** = δΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ = "a servant", "an attendant", "a waiter of a table".

- C. The two offices seen in words.
 - 1. The bishop, an overseer.
 - 2. The deacon, a servant.
 - 3. The deacons are not overseerers but servants. They are not to oversee the church. They are to serve as the bishop and the church direct them. **Acts 6:1-7**

I. What A Deacon Should Be Like.

- A. Vs 8 **"Likewise must the deacons be..."**
 - 1. "Grave" = ΣΕΜΝΟΣ = "dignified", "stately".
 - 2. "Not double-tongued" = ΔΙΛΟΓΟΣ = "double-tongued", "saying one thing, doing another".
 - 3. "Not given to much wine" = ΠΡΟΣΕΧΩ = "to turn one's mind to", "occupy one's self with", "addiction".
 - 4. "Not greedy of filthy lucre" = ΑΙΣΧΡΟΚΕΡΔΗΣ = "greedy of gain", "desiring an item to the point of doing something dishonest to get it".

5. Acts 6:3 - "...honest report", "full of the Holy Ghost", "full of wisdom"

II. The Deacon And The Faith.

- A. Vs 9 "Holding the mystery of the faith..."
 1. "Holding" = εχω = "to hold continually".
 2. "Mystery" = μυστηριον = "a truth men would not know unless God revealed it".
 3. "The faith" = της πιστεως = "the substance of the teachings of Jesus Christ".

- B. "...a clean conscience"
 1. "Conscience" = συνειδησις = "being one's own witness".
 2. "Clean" = καθαρως = "free from admixture"
 3. They should have a clean conscience in regard to the faith and in regard to their lives. A person struggling with guilt will seldom do a good job.

- C. Vs 10 "And let these also first be proved;..."
 1. "Proved" = δοκιμαζω = "to approve after testing".
 2. "And let them also be tested first". - RSV

- D. "then let them use the office of a deacon being found blameless."
 1. "Let them use the office of deacon" = διακονειτωσαν = pres act. imp. 3rd person pl.
 2. "Then let them get to it, being without obvious flaws"

III. The Deacon And His Family.

- A. Vs 11 "Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things."
 1. "Grave" = σεμνος = "sincere", "dignified".
 2. "Slanderers" = διαβολος = "accuser", "the word from which we get devil".
 3. "Sober" = νηφαλιος = "temperate", "abstinent".

4. "Women who can be trusted" - PHI
5. "...true in all things" - BAS

- B. Vs 12 "Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well."
1. They should be "one-wife" husbands.
 2. "Ruling" = προϊστημι = "be over", "preside".
 3. "And they must manage their children and their households properly." - MOF

IV. The Deacon And God.

- A. "For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree..."
1. "Διακονησαντε" = "having deaconed".
 2. "Well" = καλος = "well", "good".
 3. "Purchased" = περιποιεω = "to make over and above", "to lay up", "to save up".
 4. "Degree" = βεθμος = "base", "step", "a foundation", "to position one's self".
 5. "For those who have served well as deacons, position themselves well before God and others."
- B. "...and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."
1. "Great" = πολλην = "much", "large amount".
 2. "Boldness" = παρρησια = "fearless candor", "speaking all one thinks".
 3. "And the right to speak confidently on matters of the Christian faith."

