

God wants church leaders who live in Christ’s image of godliness.

1. Paul Advised Timothy for the Leadership of the Ephesus Church. 1 Tim.

- a. Paul warned of false teachers, to hold faith in Christ (1), with prayer and truth for all (2).
- b. Church leaders must meet qualifications (3). Godly leaders are trained in the Word (4).
- c. Paul advised on treatment of widows and elders (5), and for all to be godly servants (6).

“if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory,” 1 Tim.. 3:15-16

2. Once Again, Paul Wrote to Timothy to Persevere in his Ephesus Ministry. 2 Tim.

- a. Paul was thankful for Timothy’s faith, and reminded him of his responsibilities (1).
- b. He described Christian ministers (2), godlessness ahead, and the value of Scripture (3).
- c. Ministers are to preach God’s Word patiently. Paul asked for visits and sent greetings (4).

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work,” 2 Tim. 3:14-17

3. Paul Wrote to Titus Regarding Leaders for the Crete Churches. Titus

- a. Paul instructed appointment of qualified elders to establish church order (1).
- b. They were to rebuke false teachers and Judaizers (1), and to teach sound doctrine (2).
- c. They are to be ready for and maintain all good works, especially urgent needs (3).

“he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, ... so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works,” Tit. 3:5a, 7-8

4. Paul Wrote to Philemon Asking Forgiveness for a Runaway Slave. Philemon

- a. Paul asked Philemon, a Christian leader in Colossae, to forgive his former slave (:1-16).
- b. Onesimus should be forgiven as Christ forgave; he is more useful as a servant (:17-25).

“no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me,” Philem. :16-17

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