

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Timothy 3:8-13**.
- B. We continue with this two part series of lessons on deacons. Last Lord's day we discussed the work of a deacon. Principles and examples from the NT were discussed.
- C. Today, in very brief form, I shall be talking about the qualifications of the deacon according to Paul's remarks in 1Tim.3. My comments are not exhaustive but meant only to help guide each one as we contemplate the appointment of additional men to serve as deacons.

## I. ODDS AND ENDS ABOUT 1TIMOTHY 3:8-13.

- A. As we look at the only passage in the NT that gives the qualifications of deacons there are some things to note before we go down the general list of attributes.
- B. First, I can see only 3 requirements of a deacon that are special. That is, all of the other things listed are characteristics every Xian should possess. These three are:
  - 1. Must be a man.
  - 2. Must be married.
  - 3. Must have children.
- C. The qualifications for an elder are different than that of a deacon. If they were the same:
  - 1. What would be the difference between an elder and a deacon?
  - 2. Why does Paul even list the qualifications for a deacon?
  - 3. Why are the qualifications for elder more extensive than a deacon?
- D. A word probably needs be said about 3:11. It has caused some controversy in application in some places. The verse is not speaking about deaconesses as office, but rather women who give special service in the church. The KJV translation of wives here is not entirely accurate; women is better.

## II. QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEACONS.

- A. Verse 8:
  - 1. Of dignity... serious minded, not a flighty or frivolous man.
  - 2. Not double-tongued... not deceptive in speech, will not say one thing to one person and something else to another.
  - 3. Not addicted to much wine... a person in control of himself.
  - 4. Not fond of sordid gain (filthy lucre)... will not use a spiritual office for financial gain.
- B. Verse 9:
  - 1. Holding the mystery of the faith... knows the basic and central points of the gospel.
  - 2. With a clear conscience... knows he is obligated to do good and to shun evil.
- C. Verse 10:
  - 1. First he tested... this is done before they are appointed. Check lifestyle, are they a willing servant?
  - 2. If beyond reproach... no one is perfect beyond reproach, but here means charged but not accused or found guilty.
- D. Verse 12:
  - 1. Husband of one wife... must be a man who is married.
  - 2. Must manage children well... must be a good father.
  - 3. Must manage household well... manage money, be a good provider, etc.
- E. Verse 13:

although not a qualification, a great reward for being a deacon (who serves well) is two-fold:

  - 1. A high standing... well respected, worthy of honor.
  - 2. Great confidence in the faith... assurance of God's blessings.

**CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. May each of us study these qualifications and apply them to the men to be considered as deacons.  
Let us pray about this matter daily.
- B. May those being considered also look at these qualifications and be sure they meet them in their own minds.
- C. Even though this has not been a sermon about becoming a Xian, we will still offer the invitation.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.