

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Timothy 3:1-7.**
- B. Today, I continue my sermon series designed to help the men of our congregation grow spiritually. To help in this spiritual growth last week I talked about being:
 - 1. Above reproach, husband of one wife, temperate.
 - 2. Prudent, respectful, hospitable.
- C. This leaves the following topics:
 - 1. 7-12 AM Able to teach, not addicted to wine, not self-willed.
 - 2. PM Not quick-tempered, not pugnacious, not contentious.
 - 3. 7-19 AM Gentle, free from the love of money, manages household well.
 - 4. PM A good reputation, loving what is good, just.
 - 5. 7-26 AM Devout, not a new convert, (seven good resolutions).
- D. This morning; 1) able to teach, 2) not addicted to wine, and 3) not self-willed.

I. THE MAN OF GOD IS... ABLE TO TEACH.

- A. **The man of God is able to teach and is teachable** (1Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8-9).
(1Tim 3:2) An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,
(Ti 1:8-9) but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.
- B. When we first see this phrase, *able to teach*, we think of great orators or instructors. We know of men who can speak as to leave an audience spellbound. But this is only half of what Paul has in mind here. He is not talking about the miraculous gift of teaching as a special gift to the church (1Cor. 12:28-29).
And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they?
- C. Yes, the man of God will know the Word sufficiently enough to teach it to others. The basics are to know the Scriptures that teach:
 - 1. How to become a Xian.
 - 2. The five acts of worship.
 - 3. Mastery of one of the gospel accounts to know X's life, death, and resurrection.
- D. The apostle is also talking about a quality to be had among men who would be leaders in the church. I submit for your approval the idea that not only does this phrase mean that Xian men should be able to teach the word of God to others, but; **that they be teachable themselves.**
- E. Here, *able to teach* is surrounded by significant words, all having to do with qualities of life. To be able to teach means that a man must possess certain personal qualities that enables him to communicate with others in a non-threatened, objective manner. He isn't the kind of person who goes around looking for arguments and actually stirring them up.
- F. Note that Timothy was to handle people in a very specific way (2Tim. 2:23-26).
But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.
- G. Notice in the text in Titus that the man of God is to be self-controlled, able to refute those who contradict. This shows both of the qualities I am talking about; first he must know the Word and then have the character to present it in such a way that is self-controlled and inoffensive.

II. THE MAN OF GOD IS... NOT ADDICTED TO WINE.

- A. **The man of God is not to be affected by strong drink** (1Tim. 3:3; Ti. 1:6-7).
(1Tim 3:3) not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money.
(Ti 1:6-7) namely, if any man be above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,
- B. One commentator says that the Greek word used here, *paroinos*, literally means "a man who sits too long at his wine." It would seem to be quite clear that no Xian was to allow himself to be affected in a negative way by strong drink (Eph. 5:18; 1Pet. 4:2-3; Prov. 23:29-34).
Ephesians 5:18 (dissipation--to indulge as to harm yourself)
(Eph. 5:19) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,
(1Pet. 4:2-3) so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.
(Prov. 23:29-34) Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long over wine, Those who go to taste mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it goes down smoothly; At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, And your mind will utter perverse things. And you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea, Or like one who lies down on the top of a mast.
- C. And there are circumstances where total abstinence is the best policy (Rom. 14:21; Prov. 23:19-21).
(Rom 14:21) It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles.
(Prov. 23:19-21) Listen, my son, and be wise, And direct your heart in the way. Do not be with heavy drinkers of wine, Or with gluttonous eaters of meat; For the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty, And drowsiness will clothe a man with rags.
- D. Let's take this verse one step further. It seems clear to me that the Bible teaches that a mature Xian man is not to allow himself to be controlled by anything that is sinful. The emphasis of the verse is on being *addicted* rather than on *wine*. We need not be addicted to anything except Jesus (1Cor. 16:15; KJV).
- E. Jesus and His word are to be in control of our lives, not anything else.

III. THE MAN OF GOD IS... NOT SELF-WILLED.

- A. **The man of God does not build his world around himself** (Ti. 1:7).
For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,
- B. The man who is self-willed is self-pleasing, self-serving and arrogant. He is self-centered, and his own authority. He can become very greedy and vain (2Peter 2:2-3, 10).
And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. **10** and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties,
- C. Reasons for this kind of behavior are:
1. Some people have just learned to be self-centered and self-willed. They are spoiled and conceited. They were overindulged as children. They have always had their own way, and they still want their own way.
 2. Some people have too much freedom and have followed too many bad examples. They do not know of self-sacrifice or self-control, for they have never been taught it.
 3. Others have been over restricted and repressed as kids, and now they reach to control the world they never had a say in before. The more control they have over the people and things about them the better they feel.
- D. The man of God will learn to crucify the will, w/o breaking the spirit.

IV. SOME PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- A. To become a man who is *able to teach*:
 1. Learn as much of the basics of the word as possible and commit the verses to memory.
 2. Realize you don't have all the answers no matter how educated or experienced you are.
 3. Greg's maxim: He who has ceased to learn is not qualified to teach.
- B. To become a man who is *not addicted to wine*:
 1. Recognize and attempt to conquer those things in life that bring you into bondage.
 2. Seek advice and help from others Xians in these areas.
 3. Pray often for God's strength to set you free from these things.
- C. To become a man who is *not self-willed*:
 1. Remind yourself that you are not in control of your life--Jesus is!
 2. See how many times each week you can let the people in your life have things their way without compromising God's word.
 3. Make other people's agenda for the week your agenda, not vice versa.
(Stephen Covey in *Seven Habits* calls this, "Win/Win" thinking.)

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Three very important things for the man of God to be:
 1. Able to teach.
 2. Not addicted to wine.
 3. Not self-willed.
- B. Next lesson: not quick-tempered, not pugnacious, and not contentious.
- C. To become a man of God, one must obey X.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.