

“Confidence In The Faith”

How ‘Model Citizens’ Draw Their Strength From Christ!

1 Timothy 1:3-7; 3, 5:17-22

In the Pastoral Epistles we see the contours of a Jesus-trusting, apostle-founded church. Paul sets out a ‘trustworthy’ principle for the ages (v 1): qualified members of the Body ought to aspire to places of responsibility and labor in the Church. Overseers (‘elders,’ see Titus 1:5, 7) and deacons (plus the ‘wives’ or ‘women’ in v 11) are at the heart of God’s plan for his church to be ‘cared for’ (v 5) and ‘served’ (v 13). Both offices build on the ‘managing’ of one’s household (v 5, 12), which requires the grace of God! Hear the call to exemplify the Gospel, to perform your unique function in the Body, and to draw your strength from Christ present in the sacrament!

I. We all ought to aspire to the _____ God sets before us (v 1).

This Gr. word is used 17 times in the epistles to Timothy. “Timothy, if a man wants to become a spiritual leader, that’s great. Just make sure he’s a mature man, and here’s how you can determine if he measures up to God’s _____ as a Christian ... the qualities are _____ for _____ Christian.” (*Measure of A Man*, 21).

II. The best _____ of your future _____ is your _____ integrity (v 2-13).

III. The church is called to pursue true _____ in loving _____ (v 2-13).

IV. Elders need to remain _____ and _____ and _____.

V. Deacons need to remain _____ and _____.

VI. Let us _____ together on the _____ of _____ (v 16).

Our strength for _____ flows from _____, who has called us into “the household of faith” (Gal. 6:10). He reigns in _____ (v6), and promises to _____ us in the Supper for our labors in His kingdom!