**The Pastoral Epistles: 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus**

***Lesson 2: Qualities of good leaders***

***Series principal Bible verses:*** ***1 Timothy 1:15-17****: Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.  But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.  Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Bible passages for Lesson 3:**

**1 Timothy 3:1-7**.  Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. 2Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Timothy%203&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29736a)] respect. 5(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) 6He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 7He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap.

**Titus 1:6-9**. 6An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Titus%201&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29899b)] and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. 7Since an overseer manages God’s household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. 8Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. 9He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

**Lesson Objective**: We will learn to identify the personal attributes required for those appointed to be elders.

**Introduction:** Paul and his associates traveled from town-to-town on missionary journeys establishing small congregations of believers as they went. Often, they stayed for only a short while before moving to a new city. Sometimes, Paul left one of his associates behind to strengthen these new believers; however, he realized that the long-term survival of these church plants depended on the presence of strong, faithful leaders.

Revisiting some of these congregations **“Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.” Acts 14:23.**

In these letters Paul instructs Timothy and Titus to appoint elders in the congregations where they are working. Today’s lesson examines the attributes of the individuals who should be appointed to this important work.

**Major Point 1**: The various names given for the office provide some insight into their responsibilities.

1. In **1 Peter 5:1-4**, three different terms are used to describe these individuals (i.e., elder, overseer, shepherd). What does each of these terms suggest to you about the role?
2. We often refer to our elders as “shepherds” and us as their “flock”.

1. **What are the primary responsibilities of an actual shepherd? What does that suggest should be the primary responsibilities of an “elder”?**
2. **Jesus calls himself “the Good Shepherd” (John 10:1-18).**

**Major Point 2**: Paul gave Timothy and Titus guidelines to follow as they identified individuals to serve as spiritual leaders.

1. **What were the most basic requirements Paul set forth?** By comparison, what are the most basic requirements one must possess before they can be a candidate for the Office of President of the United States? [natural born citizen, be at least 35 years old, resident of the United States for a minimum of 14 years]. Are all individuals who meet these basic requirements qualified to be President of the United States? Similarly, are all individuals who meet Paul’s basic requirements suitable for to serve as elders?
2. **Paul spends most of the passages describing the personal attributes elders should possess**. Make a list of these personality traits and attributes.
3. What insights do **Matthew 20:20-28** and **Philippians 2:1-4** provide about attributes that are desirable for those selected to serve as elders?
4. Are all individuals in the congregation who possess these traits qualified to serve as elders of a congregation? Must an elder possess all of these traits? Would you consider some of the traits to be more important than others?

**Major Point 3**: Paul or his coworkers (Timothy, Titus) appointed elders in the various congregations. In the absence of an apostle, how are we to determine who is to be selected as an elder?

1. We tend to follow the model of the selection of deacons in **Acts 6:1-6**. What were the steps in that possess?
2. What are some other ways elders are selected?

**Call to Action**: In the near future we will be given the opportunity to suggest individuals to serve as additional elders for the Hillcrest congregation. Be thinking of individuals who possess the attributes Paul describes in these passages.