

A Study of the Epistles of Paul

(NT Survey Lesson 179--1 Timothy 3)

Introduction: Paul continues to instruct Timothy as to how those in God's household should behave. In this chapter he discusses the qualifications of those who lead (elders) and serve (deacons) in God's house.

Lesson aim: To understand the qualifications of elders and deacons.

The qualifications of overseers--1 Tim. 3:1-7

1. Should a Christian man desire to be an overseer? What does Paul say about this work?
2. Are the qualifications of an overseer necessary to be possessed before appointment?
3. What does it mean to be blameless? (Does it mean "perfect"?)
4. What is implied by the phrase "husband of one wife"?
5. Draw up a list of the remaining qualifications and give a brief definition of each.
6. Why is the overseer's rule of his family considered in his qualification to be an overseer in the church? Does ruling one's house well include having children who are Christians? (See Tit. 1:6)

The qualifications of deacons--1 Tim. 3:8-13

1. Make a list of the qualifications of deacons and give a brief definition of each one.
2. What should happen before a deacon should be appointed? (v. 10)
3. Are the qualifications in v. 11 for elder's wives, deacon's wives, deaconesses, or what? Give a reason for your answer.

4. What do those who serve as deacons in the church attain for themselves?
(v. 13)

Paul's purpose for writing--1 Tim. 3:14-15

1. What were Paul's travel plans?
2. Why did he write this letter to Timothy?
3. Is the church God's family? Of what does the church serve as the pillar and support?