

## DOING GOOD: "It Starts At The Top"

### INTRODUCTION

- **Key Idea:** Doing Good requires following good leaders.  
1 Timothy 3:1-7; Acts 20:20-28; 1 Peter 5:1-4
- **"Everything Starts At The Top":** The church must be led by godly, qualified leaders.  
*Titus 1:1-4:* Paul encourages Titus to do what Paul had done.  
*Titus 1:10-16:* Paul encourages Titus not to do what others have done.

### THE ABSENCE OF PASTORAL LEADERSHIP (TITUS 1:5)

#### A. The Correcting of Church Life:

- **"Set in order" (v.5)** – from which we get the words *orthopedics* ("straightening bones") and *orthodontics* ("straightening teeth").
- Paul wanted Titus to *straighten things out* by appointing elders "in every city" (1:5)

**Pastoral Application:** Are you *working hard* to **protect your progression?** (Consolidating gains, adding to those gains) "The Christian life is like riding a bike uphill with no brakes."

#### B. The Selecting of Church Leaders:

"The presence of a bad leader does more damage to a church than the absence of a good leader."

#### Why Appoint Elders?

1. It's Biblical – Acts 14:23
2. It's the Apostles' Succession Plan – Ephesians 2:20
3. To Safeguard the Rule of Christ in the Church
4. It's One of Two Distinguishable Church Offices – 1 Timothy 3:1-13
5. It Promotes the Biblical Role of Deacons
6. It Produces a Well-Led, Well-Bred and Well-Fed Church.

### THE APPOINTMENT OF PASTORAL LEADERSHIP (TITUS 1:5)

- **"appoint elders in every city as I commanded you" (v.5)** – the word was used for a commander giving orders to his troops or an emperor giving orders to his citizens.

"Titus was in charge of putting others in charge" (Robert Yarbrough)

#### A. The Persons of Leadership

- According to the New Testament, **only men** can hold the pastoral office.  
Titus 1:5-9, 1 Timothy 2:11-15; 1 Timothy 3:1-7
  - This is an unpopular position – but Paul is no misogynist.
  - This is not endorsing the totality of the church's behavior towards women.
  - Women have a critical role in the church and their giftedness should be fully expressed.
- **Men need to step up and lead the church.**

"We need heroes. We need grown-ups. We need men to put down the plastic fork, step away from the salad bar and untie the world from the tracks of complacency. It's time to get your hands dirty. It's time to answer the call of manhood. It's time to wear the pants." (Levi Strauss ad)

# Sermon Application Questions

April 7, 2019

## REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

In the sermon Pastor Philip exhorted us to work hard to "protect our progression". He encouraged us to consolidate our spiritual gains and then continue to add to those advancements. What did you think about this exhortation? What are some of the spiritual advancements you have made in your life that you want to continue to develop?

2

A.W. Tozer wrote that "The neglected heart will soon be a heart overrun with worldly thoughts; the neglected life will soon become a moral chaos; the church that is not jealously protected by mighty intercession and sacrificial labors will before long become the abode of every evil bird and the hiding place for unsuspected corruption." Why is it easy to neglect our own hearts? What are some of the ways that we can tend to the spiritual condition of our own hearts?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1

Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week's sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

### Acts 14:21-23

When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

### Acts 20:28-32

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

### 1 Peter 5:1-5

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

2

**Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13.** What are some of your observations of this passage? Why do you think God has chosen these characteristics to be the qualifications of elders and deacons in the church?

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

1

Pastor Philip asked us to consider the question: “What is lacking in my walk with God”? He then exhorted us to waste no time in strengthening that area. Is there **one area** that you want to particularly focus on this week? What is **one practical action** you will take this week to address that area?

**Note:** Even small action steps when faithfully taken can be used by God in great ways.

*Possible areas of evaluation:*

- Spiritual disciplines
- Church Attendance
- Prayer life
- Worldliness
- Marriage
- Parenting
- Physical and mental health
- Personal and spiritual development

**Practical Action to Take this Week:** \_\_\_\_\_

2

In his commentary on Titus, Stephen Davey writes, “The Church – then and now – needs men. Men who will step up to the plate of duty, swing the bat of integrity, and run the bases of responsibility.” Perhaps a good application from this week’s sermon is to **pray for the men of our church**. You can use this prayer list as a suggested guide, or create your own.

- Day 1: Pray for the current elders and deacons of our church (Titus 1:5-9)
- Day 2: Pray for future elders and deacons to be raised up and trained at our church
- Day 3: Pray for the older men in our church (Titus 2:2)
- Day 4: Pray for the younger men in our church (Titus 2:6)
- Day 5: Pray for the students (junior high and high school) at our church.

*“Titus is going to issue a search. . . for men.”*

*(Stephen Davey)*