



1 Ti 3:6–16, A Good Servant

October 13

REVIEW: [1 Timothy](#)¹

CONTEXT: This is a “pastoral-epistle” where Paul writes to his younger co-worker, Timothy, whom he left in Ephesus (Acts 19 and Eph) to tackle some false teachers and the ungodly living their teaching was producing. While often seen as a letter on Gospel order (which in part is true), its focus is really on how teaching the true Gospel and believing the true Gospel transform lives. As Christians our lives are to be ordered around Jesus. In light of this large task, Paul encourages Timothy and soaks his letter with practical advice. Today’s passage focuses on Timothy’s call to preach and live godliness rooted in the Lord Jesus for personal benefit and effective witness.

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (1 Ti 3:1–2a)

- Mt 9:35–38. Why should we pray for more leaders and encourage godly men to aspire to the office of overseer?
- What is the office of overseer (elder, shepherd)?
- Why is Gospel order, in terms of leadership, necessary for a healthy church?
- Why is this office reserved for qualified men?
- Why is the work of an overseer noble?
- How is their life to be noble and so match their calling?

READ: 1 Ti 4: 6–16

QUESTIONS:

1. **How would you define godliness?**
2. *V. 6- “These things” probably refer to the oddities of the false teachers in belief and morals (or maybe the whole letter).*
3. *In 2 Ti 3:5 Paul speaks of the “appearance of godliness but denying its power.” How must godliness spring from within, vs. something someone seeks to do without?*

4. *V. 6b- A “good servant of Christ” is continually “trained” (or “nourished”) in the faith and practice of Jesus. The NT often makes a connection between faith and practice, belief and behaviour. How does truth, believed, transform living? (c.f. 1 Ti 3:15b).*
5. Ultimately to be deemed a good servant one must be...?
6. *V. 7- Silly myths refer back to ch. 1. What are modern examples that draw people into unprofitable speculation & conflict? Why do such things go hand in hand with irreverence?*
7. *V. 8 a & b- In 2018 Canadian gyms earned a whopping 4.2 billion dollars. While some are not interested in fitness, many Canadians are. What benefits are there to living well (even spiritually)? Why is v.8b so true (and v.8a then so sad)?*
8. *The NASB translates v. 10, “For it is for this we labour and strive, because we have set our hope on the living God, who is the Saviour of all mankind, especially of believers.” How is our pursuit of godliness rooted in our saving hope? How is godliness the aim of preaching the Gospel of justification and sanctification?*
9. *Vv. 11–12a- Those who minister in Jesus name have Christ given authority. Why is this important to remember?*
10. *V. 12- The false teachers, and even believers, may have looked down on Timothy because of his youth. (He was probably in his late 20s or early 30s). What other factors might cause people to despise us, or look down on us in ministry?*
11. **Rather than lashing out or becoming deflated, what did Paul command Timothy to devote himself to: in character (v. 12b) and in conduct (v. 13–14)?**
12. **What would the effect of this be?**
13. *V. 14–15- These (question 8, or vv. 13–14) give real advantage, both personally and in corporate witness. “Save yourself and your hearers” refers to persevering in the faith as confirmation of one’s salvation. How does “immerse” “persist” “watch”, etc, all lead to godliness. In what ways can we do this?*

NEXT TIME: October 20, Titus 3, Readiness for Good Work

¹ While in the post-New Testament era there are known to be deaconesses, this letter only mentions male deacons, contrary to what is stated in the video.