

★ Desiring a Good Work

Qualifications for Pastors

Lesson 2

The Teacher's Preparation

Scripture Passages to Study: I Timothy 3

Study Guide: Read "Desiring a Good Work: Qualifications for Pastors" from *New Testament Highlights - Part 2*.

Lesson Objective: In chapter 3 of I Timothy, Paul lists the qualifications for a pastor. This lesson categorizes these qualifications into three groups: Good Work, or what a pastor does, Good Behavior, or what a pastor is, and Good Report, or what a pastor is not.

Lesson Application: The best and greatest job for me is the ministry!

Memory Verse: I Timothy 3:1



"THY WORD HAVE I HID IN MINE HEART..."

This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

—I Timothy 3:1

The Teacher's Checklist

- Activity Worksheets and Pencils
- Attendance and Record Notebook
- Lesson Plan
- Cue Card
- Memory Verse Card
- Music Player
- Visual Illustrations for the Lesson
- Attention Getter: First Place

Teacher Tips

Ask questions during the lesson.
Encourage discussion.

The Teacher's Lesson Plan

Materials: First Place Ribbon or Gold Medal

You may find at least one of these items in a teachers' supply, party supply, or toy store.

What You Could Say:

Every four years, the Summer Olympic Games—also known as the Olympics—are held. The last Olympics was held in 2004, meaning that the next one is in 2008. The Olympics is a time when thousands of men and women from all over the world travel to one country to compete against each other in hundreds of different sports events. Only the “best of the best” are sent by their countries to these games. They are sent with the goal of winning gold medals.

The gold medal is given to the athlete—the man or woman in the sports event—who comes in first place in any event. In the 2004 Olympics, over 11,099 athletes competed in 301 events. That means that only 301 people would have received gold medals and that 10,798 people left, knowing that other athletes had done better than they had. The medals would have gone to the fastest runners in the world, the strongest weightlifters, and the most talented gymnasts, among many others. There are other medals—the silver for second place and the bronze for third place—but none can compare to the best one: the gold medal, the best medal that an Olympian can receive.

As you grow older, you will find that you have many choices in life—from small decisions like choosing what to have for breakfast to big decisions like choosing what to do with your life. You need to be sure that you are always making the *best* decisions. An Olympic athlete will do what he must for the gold medal, for it is the *best* medal that he can receive. A Christian young person must do what he can for our Lord; for that is the *best* goal in life. There are other things that a person could do with his life, but the *best* choice would be to serve the Lord.

Teacher's Notes

If you aren't fired
with enthusiasm,
you will be fired
with enthusiasm.
—Vince Lombardi

★ Desiring a Good Work

★ Qualifications for Pastors

1st - 3rd Grade
Lesson 2

The church is a group of believers who meet together to hear God's Word, to be baptized, and to take the Lord's Supper. Ephesians 5:25 says that Jesus died for the church. This shows how much He loves the church.

Jesus knows His children need a shepherd to guide them. So He gave the church a pastor.

God used the Apostle Paul to write some special instructions for pastors. The two pastors to whom Paul wrote letters were Timothy and Titus. We can read these letters in the Bible. As we look at some of these instructions, we must remember a few things:

1. A pastor is a gift from God to the church.
2. God wants us to behave in the same way that He wants the pastor to behave.
3. Serving the Lord is the best job in the world.

Good Work

This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

—I Timothy 3:1

Paul told Timothy and Titus that God had given them a good work to do. Being a pastor, or doing any work in the ministry of the church, is a work that God gives to those who love Him and want to serve Him.

The work of a pastor is to teach and preach God's Word (Ephesians 4:11). Jesus was the best of example of this (Matthew 4:23 and 9:35).

A pastor is supposed to rule his own house as well as the house of God (I Timothy 3:5). That means the pastor is the authority in his home and in the church house. He is supposed to give direction to his family and to his church members.

He is also supposed to be kind and generous and polite towards others (I Timothy 3:2).

Good Behavior

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach.

—I Timothy 3:2

In this verse, God tells us that a pastor must have good behavior. *Vigilant* means "watchful." The pastor must know what is happening in the church. *Sober* means "serious." That doesn't mean a pastor can't have fun. But it does mean that he should always remember that he is doing God's work. He must remember that the devil wants to hurt God's people, God's pastors, and

God’s work. A pastor must also be blameless. *Blameless* means “innocent.” A pastor must obey God’s Word and the laws of the land. I Timothy 3:3 says the pastor is also supposed to be patient during hard times. He must trust the Lord.

Good Report

Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without.

—I Timothy 3:7

In the first seven verses of I Timothy 3, Paul tells Timothy about some things that he must not allow in his life. He must not be a person that argues a lot or gets into fights. He must not drink alcohol or be greedy. He must not be a brand-new Christian who does not know God’s Word. A pastor must have a good reputation.

Conclusion

Why does God have so many rules for being a pastor? The first reason is that the pastor is the shepherd of the people in his church. Since Jesus is in heaven, the pastor must point the people to Jesus. He must teach them to obey God’s Word. Secondly, if the pastor does this good work and has good behavior and a good report, unsaved people will hear the Gospel and be saved.

You can see that the pastor has a big job to do. Our job as church members is to love and pray for our pastor and his family. We should help them in any way we can.

Boys, if God wants you to be a pastor, you will have a good work to do. But every Christian—girls and boys, moms and dads—should live in the same way as the pastor. If we do, many unsaved people will want to hear about Jesus and be saved because of our good report.

Teacher’s Notes
