

★ 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

4th - 6th Grade
Lesson 2

★ Qualifications for Pastors

We have read about some of the letters that Paul wrote to the churches during his missionary journeys. In this lesson, we are going to learn about the qualifications for a pastor. Paul wrote some letters to two men named Timothy and Titus. These men were pastors. We call these letters the Pastoral Epistles.

In the Pastoral Epistles, Paul told Timothy and Titus how people should act in the house of God. How we act in God's house is very important. It is important that we act right, talk right, and dress right when we are in God's house. It is a special place. We should not treat it like any other place.

Another thing about which Paul wrote to Timothy and Titus were the requirements for being a pastor. We are going to discuss those requirements.

The three things that we are going to talk about in this lesson concerning the pastor are his good work, good behavior, and good report.

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

The Bible tells us that if a man wants to be a pastor, it is a good thing. Being a pastor is a special position that was created by God. The pastor's job is to take care of God's people. He is supposed to preach the Bible to them and show them what God wants them to do. Three things that God says He wants the pastor to do are rule, teach, and give.

The word *rule* means "to have authority, control, direction, or govern over another." The pastor is supposed to rule his own house and the house of God. The Bible says that we are supposed to obey those who have the rule over us. We should obey our pastor. Your pastor is the man of God. The pastor has a big responsibility for his people. He will answer to God someday for the way he rules over them.

Teach means "to impart knowledge." Not all teachers have to be preachers, but all preachers have to be teachers. A pastor has to teach his people what is in the Bible. Jesus was a preacher and a teacher. Many times in the Bible, Jesus taught the people while He healed them and preached to them.

The last word that Paul talks about in reference to a pastor is the word *give*. *Give* means "to bestow a gift." Paul wrote that a pastor should be *given* to hospitality. That means he should be kind to people.

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

We learned about the good work that the pastor should do. But a pastor should also have good behavior. There are certain ways that a pastor is supposed to behave. A pastor is supposed to be the husband of one wife. The pastor is supposed to be vigilant and alert to what is going on with the church. The pastor is supposed to watch out for his church members. The Bible says that a pastor should be blameless. When the Bible says blameless, it does not mean the pastor has to be perfect; but it does mean that he should be free of blame.

Good Report

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

—I Timothy 3:7

We have learned about the pastor's good work and good behavior. The last thing we need to learn is the pastor's good report. This part of Paul's letter talks about what the pastor should not do.

The pastor should not have anything to do with alcohol or excessive riches. He is not supposed to be someone who tries to start trouble. The pastor is not supposed to be concerned with the things of this world, but with the things of God.

Conclusion

God has a special plan for each and every person. God calls some people to be missionaries to other countries. He calls some people to be teachers. Sometimes, people are not called to work full time in the ministry. But God does call some people to be pastors. The job of a pastor is very special. He is responsible for God's people. He has certain responsibilities, and certain things he is not supposed to do.

Whatever God calls you to do, it is important that you do it to the best of your ability.