

Lesson 3

1 Timothy Chap. 3 **The healthy church, the Church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of truth, is served by the righteous and the faithful.**

Outline of the text:

1 A good desire - to rule the Church of Christ (bishop, pastor, elder, deacon)

2-12 The conditions that must be met in order to be worthy of one of these jobs

- 2-7 conditions for bishops (elders, pastors)

- 8-12 conditions for deacons

13 The benefits of serving as a deacon

14-15 The Purpose of the epistle: ***"Know ye how to behave yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."***

16 The great mystery of godliness: the "revelation" of Christ.

Who is entrusted with the responsibility of leading the church?

Is there a model/guide in the Bible for the leadership of the community of believers?

What is the impact of church leadership on spiritual health and prosperity?

These are some of the questions that cannot be answered correctly without studying pastoral epistles.

Although in the church of Christ all believers are priests and ministers, some are specifically called by God for specific functions.

1. Identify these functions in the text and try to define them.

Specify other scripture passages that you have used to define them.

In this lesson we will deal only with one of the two services, that of a deacon, as the other will be studied in more depth in a future lesson.

2. List the conditions that deacons must meet. What do you notice? How is it different from elders?

See also Acts 6: 1-6.

3. To be in a position as a church servant involves wanting this. But this is not enough, and like we saw above, certain conditions must be met.

What is the role of these conditions in fulfilling those jobs?

In verse 11 of the passage about deacons, the apostle Paul refers to women. There is no consensus on the translation of this verse. Some researchers claim that the Greek term gynaikas refers to women and support the idea that women can serve as deacons in the church, while others translate the same word to wives - with reference to the wives of deacons - and thus prohibit the performance of the service of deacon by women. In contemporary practice, more and more churches provide women with the opportunity to serve as deacons, with the specification that this service is not of teaching or leadership, but rather administrative.

4. No matter what some or others believe, it is clear that women play an important role in church life. What is this role and what are the conditions that its practice involves?

What services do you think a woman can have in the church? Read 1 Tim 2 / 9-15 and Titus 2 / 3-5

5. In verse 13 we are told that deacons who serve well gain certain benefits from their work. What are these and what implications do they have in the lives of those who serve in this way?

The work of a church depends very much on the testimony of those who serve in it, as well as the devotion with which they perform their assigned service.

As a result, their election implies a great responsibility on the part of each member of the church, at the time of the vote by which this election is made.

6. Paul's instructions to Timothy are to teach him how to "behave in the church of God." What are the effects on the church of observing these rules regarding church ministers? And of non-compliance with those?

7. Analyze v. 16 and try to explain what godliness means in practical terms. What should you do to become a godly Christian? To answer this question, I suggest using some helpful resources (Bible dictionary, commentaries).

8. Make a prayer list with the ministers of the church you belong to. Fill in a few important reasons for prayer. Pray specifically for each of them.

Final application: What are you left with after studying this lesson — what did God say to you personally?

- encouragement that encourages you;
- promises whose fulfillment you pray for;
- examples to follow;
- warnings to keep in mind;
- sins to avoid or confess.
- commands to listen to;

Bring that thing into prayer and apply it in your life.

As a result of this study, I will:

WHAT? _____

HOW? _____

WHEN? _____
