

Sermon Outline

A SURPRISING TRUTH | Paul Harrington

Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 3:1-16

Name the 3 most important Christian priorities

Here is a trustworthy saying

1 Timothy 1:15

¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

1 Timothy 4:9-10

⁹ This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. ¹⁰ That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.

1 Timothy 3:1

¹ Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task.

Why is leadership in God's church so important?

1. In Search of the Perfect Leadership Structure

- Overseers, bishops, elders, deacons...
- The emphasis is not on their job descriptions but who they ARE.

2. Character is Paramount

- A culture in love with externals/image
 - a. Able to teach (v2)
 - 1 Timothy 1:3,7; 4:2.

b. How has the gospel shaped the leader's life?

True doctrine leads to Godly living
But not perfection (1 Timothy 5:20)

Deep care for those around them
Hospitable

Self-control (not a drunk or violent)

Healthy household
V3 faithful to his wife

V4 (v 12) Manage his own family well and see that his children obey him

Nb Titus 1:6 An elder must be...a man whose children believe

Not a lover of money (v3)

A good reputation with outsiders (v7)

What are we looking for in leadership?

1. What is the 'pass mark'?

V2 above reproach

V10 nothing against them (literally blameless)

Titus 1:6 blameless

Colossians 1:21-22

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—

2. What sort of leader?

3. The Privilege of Leadership