

**Text:** 1 Timothy 3:1-7

**Translation:**

This is a faithful saying: If a man aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a good work. <sup>2</sup> A bishop then must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, clear-headed, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup> not addicted to wine, not violent, but gentle, peaceable, not loving money, <sup>4</sup> one who rules over his own household well, keeping his children under control with dignity, <sup>5</sup> (for if a man does not know how to rule his own household well, how will he care for the house of God?) <sup>6</sup> not a new convert, lest he be conceited and fall into the condemnation of the devil.<sup>1</sup> <sup>7</sup> Moreover, he must have a good reputation with those who are without<sup>2</sup> lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

**Exegetical Idea:**

Paul lays out the necessary qualities of those who aspire to the noble office of a bishop by addressing issues of behavior, character, and spiritual development.

*Homiletical Idea:* Recognize the importance of having a good church overseer.

**Exegetical Outline:**

- I. Paul's evaluation of the office of overseer (3:1).
  - A. The office of overseer must be held by a man (3:1).
  - B. The office of overseer is something a man may seek (3:1).
  - C. The office of overseer is a noble office (3:1).
  - D. The office of overseer is a work, not merely a position (3:1).
- II. Paul lays out several qualities necessary to the carrying out of the work of serving as an overseer (v. 2-7).
  - A. Qualities of that speak of good character (2-3, 7).
  - B. The value of home life as a demonstration of leadership and care (4-5).
  - C. The necessity and importance of spiritual maturity (6).

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<sup>1</sup> i.e., *the same condemnation as the devil.*

<sup>2</sup> i.e., *outside the community of faith.*