

## **THE HONORABLE OFFICE OF OVERSEER**

This series of five bible lessons is taken from the special phrase, TRUSTWORTHY SAYINGS, taken from these five passages:

1 Tim.2:12-17 (v15) – God saves the worst of sinners  
1 Tim.3:1-7 (v1)  
1 Tim.4:1-11 (v9)

2 Tim.2:8-14 (v11)  
Titus 3:1-11 (v8)

A TRUSTWORTHY SAYING is an important church doctrine that was either being attacked or not being followed correctly, or was an infrastructure Doctrine of the church (such as today's lesson).

It is considered a TRUSTWORTHY SAYING because it comes from God and its reliability depends upon the character of God and not man (1 Cor.1:9; 1 Thess.5:24).

The second TRUSTWORTHY SAYING comes from 1 Tim.3:1 - "**It is a trustworthy saying (pistos ho logos). If (1cc / true) any (tis) **aspires to the office of overseer** (episkopos), **it is a fine** (kalos, noble, honorable) **work** (ergon) **he desires to do** (epithumeo / p.a.ind)."**

The Greek word for aspires is (**OREGEO / p.m.ind**). It literally means to stretch oneself out in order to obtain something of value. A runner might do this in a close race at the finish line. When this word is used to describe the stretching out in order to obtain something of value it is often translated – **ASPIRATION**. **English dictionary defines aspiration as an ambition for something desired earnestly.**

This is the way **oregeo** is used in the second TRUSTWORTHY SAYING. It describes the spiritually mature Believer stretching his inner man in order to obtain God's will regarding the office of overseer (**episkopos**) of a local church.

**This lesson will study FIVE aspects of the Spiritual Believer aspiring to the HONORABLE OFFICE OF OVERSEER.**

- 1. The Believer who aspires to the office of overseer of a local church should be a Spiritually Mature Believer who knows he has the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher (Eph. 3:7; 4:11; 1 Cor.12:28; Rom.12:7).**

"Not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil."  
(1 Tim.3:6)

"Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God." (Col.1:25)

- 2. The Believer who aspires to the office of overseer should be trained in the responsibilities of both the gift of pastor-teacher and the office of overseer (2 Tim.3:16-17; 4:2; Titus 1:9; 1 Thess.2:11-12; 5:12-13).**

"Able to teach." (1 Tim.3:2; 2 Tim.2:24) "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth." (2 Tim.2:15)

- 3. The Believer who aspires to the office of overseer should be a Spiritually Mature Believer who has been trained in shepherding the flock of God, the local church. (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim.5:17; Heb.13:17; 1 Pet.5:2-4).**

Shepherd training involves the following five general categories of spiritual growth development of a local congregation (Acts 20:28-32; 1 Pet.5:1-4).

- Regeneration by the gospel of grace salvation (Rom.1:16; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Eph.2:8-9; John 10:28-29)
- Baby Believers and milk doctrines (1 Pet.2:2; Heb.5:13)
- Immature Believers struggling with meat doctrines (1 Cor.3:1-3; 13:11; Rom.14-15)
- Reversionism & reverse process reversionism Believers (Heb.5:11-14; 1 Tim.1:18-20; 2 Tim4:3-4)
- Spiritual ministering meat eating Believers (2 Pet.3:18; Eph.4:11-16; Col.1:28-29)

- 4. The Believer who aspires to the office of overseer should be a Spiritually Mature Believer who must be qualified by 1 Tim.3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.**

There are qualifications and disqualifications in the appointment of an overseer of a local church. This examination is always required for the appointment of the overseer of the local church.

**Write the 10 qualifications below.**

**Write the 5 disqualification's below.**

- 5. The Believer who aspires to the office of overseer should be trained to equip his congregation for spiritual warfare in the devil's world (Eph.6:10-17; Phil.1:29-30; 1 Pet.4:10-12)**

“For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.” (Phil.1:29-30)

“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are be in accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.” (1 Pet.5:8-9)

**The office of overseer is honorable whether or not the man holding it.**

**“For there are many rebellious men, empty takers and deceivers, especially those of circumcision (legalism).”  
(Titus 1:10)**