

A TRUSTWORTHY SAYING

We are currently studying through the Book of First Timothy. We introduce the three-part outline of chapter three.

- (1 Tim.3:1-7) Qualifications of Overseer of the Church
- (1 Tim.3:8-13) Qualifications of Deacons of the Church
- (1 Tim.3:14-16) Instruction to the Leadership of the Church (chs.4-6)

(1Tim.3:1) opens with a **Trustworthy Saying** (pistos ho logos/ nsm). There are five of these statements in the Pastoral Epistles (1 Tim.1:15; 3:1; 4:9; 2 Tim.2:11-13 and Titus 3:3-8).

**This lesson will study five aspects of the Trustworthy Saying
involved in the office of Overseer of the Church.**

1. A Trustworthy Saying involves an important church doctrine that was either being attacked or not being followed correctly.

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

(1 Thess.5:24) "Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass." (Rom.4:21)

Now to Timothy (1 Tim.3:1): "It is a trustworthy saying, **if** (1cc) [a true desire to do] **any** aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do (epithumeo/ p.a.ind.3ps)."

2. The Greek word for aspire is oreo (p.m.ind.3ps) [desire].

Oreo means to stretch oneself out in order to obtain something of value. Like a runner in a close race who aspires for something desired earnestly at the finish line.

Oreo describes the spiritually mature believer stretching himself to obtain God's Will regarding the office of overseer (pastor-teacher) of local church.

(1 Cor.9:16b)" I am under compulsion; **for woe is me if I do not** preach the gospel."

3. He must not be a "new convert (neophutos) [neophyte; a novice; lacking experience and training least he be disqualified], so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil." (1 Tim.3:6)

(1 Tim.4:6) [Timothy] "In pointing these out to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following."

NOTE: Twelve of Paul's thirty-five years of ministry were involved in spiritual training. Because of that spiritual training, the last twenty-three years resulted in enormous ministry for the Lord (Gal.1:16-24).

4. The Greek word for overseer is episkopos [to look or watch over; oversight; bishop].

This Greek word emphasizes the discharge of the responsibility of the duties of oversight of the local church (1Tim.3:1; Titus 1:7).

(Acts 20:28) “**Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock** (to poimnion/ dsn), among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to **shepherd** (poimaino/ p.a.infin) (Eph.4:11) the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.” (John 21:15-20)

(1 Pet.2:25) “For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the **Shepherd and Overseer** (Bishop; Guardian) of your souls.” (Jesus Christ)

5. As overseer of Doctrinal Studies Bible Church (DSBC), I will outline my duties over eleven areas of ministries.

This will be helpful to those who recently joined our church.

- **Teaching and encouraging personal evangelism:** Presenting a clear message and mechanics of the Gospel of Grace Salvation (Acts 1:8; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; and Eph.2:8-9; Phil.1:27-28)
- **Encouraging the Spiritual growth of this Local Body of Christ:** Consistently teaching Milk Doctrines (Salvation / growth) and Meat Doctrines (The Christian Way of Life / growth) (Heb.5:11-14; 1 Pet.2:2 and Eph.4:11-13) To both children and adults. (2 Tim.1:5; 3:15-17)
- **Instructions on applying the Faith Cycle:** The mechanics of walking by faith (2 Cor.5:7; Col.2:6-8; Rom.10:17)
- **Instructions in the meaning and function of Spirituality:** The mechanics of walking by the power of the Indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16-17; 1 Cor.3:1-3; 1 John 1:9)
- **Instructions in dealing with Suffering:** Undeserved Suffering [for Christ], Self-Induced Misery [SIM] and suffering under Divine Discipline. (Heb.12:5-11; Phil.1:29-30)
- **Instruction and encouragement to engage in the Spiritual Warfare [The Angelic Conflict]:** Putting on the full armor of God with the intent of engaging in the Angelic Conflict (Eph.6:10-17; 1 Pet.5:8-9; 2 Tim.2:26; 2 Cor.2:11; 1 Tim.4:1-3)
- **Encouraging and supporting Prayer ministries:** The men’s, ladies, and web prayer line ministries (Acts 1:14; 1 Tim.2:1-4; 1 John 5:14-15; James 5:13-18)
- **Encouraging Spiritually Gifted ministries:** Those internal ministries, within the local church body, empowered through the function of your Spiritual Gifts. (1 Cor.12-14; Rom.12; Eph.4; 1 Pet.4:10-12)
- **Our School of Biblical Theology:** The training-up of believers for ministry within the community, nation, and foreign fields (Pastoral Epistles; 1 and 2 Timothy; Titus; Acts 13:47)
- **Our Ministries to our local communities:** Youth Camps, our Ladies Conferences, Local bible studies, Christian counseling services, Marriage Conferences and ministering to battered women. (Titus 2:3-5; Acts 16; Rom.16).
- **Our Internet ministries:** Serving our home-bound, sick and those unable to attend our services, i.e. our military personnel and business travelers – in addition to sharing sound biblical teachings with the universal Body of Christ. (Rom.15:14-22)