

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

44 A

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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ELDERS – LESSON 3 THE QUALIFICATIONS – 1 Tim 3 & Titus 1

- Not Given To Wine** (a) This is a prohibition against winebibbing. We recommend that you study TPBS Lesson #85, The Christian And Alcoholic Beverages. (b) The verb “given” is translated from the GK that literally means *staying near wine*. (c) There is no prohibition in the NT against drinking wine, rather the caution that drunkenness can lead to _____ (Eph 5:18). Solomon warned: (Prov 20:1) “*Wine is a _____, strong drink is _____: and whosoever is _____ thereby is not _____.*” (d) Elders must be men of wisdom. In early NT times, when the drinking of wine was *culturally* and *religiously* acceptable, moderation was required. (e) The possibility of intoxication, the danger of addiction, and the potential to bring reproach on our Lord’s Church are ample reasons for the Christian to shun alcoholic beverages.
- No Striker** The elder must not be combative. (a) Paul advised Timothy to do “*nothing by partiality---Lay hands suddenly on no man.*” Scripture? _____ (b) (Prov 15:1) “*A _____ answer turneth away _____: but _____ words _____ anger.*”
- Not Greedy Of Filthy Lucre – Not Covetous** “Not a lover of money; not desiring the office for the sake of its emoluments. He who loves money will stop at nothing in order to get it. Fair and foul methods are to him alike, provided they may be equally productive. For the sake of reputation he may wish to get all honourably; but if that cannot be, he will not scruple to adopt other methods.” A. Clarke (a) Jesus, (Lk 2: 42) at _____ years of age, was lost to his family while discussing with the doctors of the law. He replied, when his behavior was questioned by his mother, (V49) “*Wist ye not that I must _____ my Father's _____?*” (b) Peter was an elder. Note the warning against greed for filthy lucre’s sake: (1 Pet 5:2) “*Feed the _____ of God which is among you, taking the _____ thereof, not by _____, but willingly; not for _____, but of a _____ mind.*” (c) Put God’s business first and avarice and greed will not accrue.
- Patient** (Eccl 7:8) “*The _____ in _____ is better than the _____ in spirit.*” The elder must avoid contention and quarrels. The Christian admonition “*be patient toward all men*” must abound in him; he is the shepherd of others. Elders, like the good heart (ie: soil) in the parable of Jesus (Lk 8:15), “*having _____ the word, _____, and bring forth _____ with _____.*” Elders must never “rush to judgment.”
- Not A Brawler** He loves peace and is not inclined to embrace controversy. He knows (Prov 12:16) that “*a _____ wrath is presently known: but a _____ man _____ shame.*” (a) Many potential problems quickly evaporate when ignored. (b) Patience and wisdom must prevail in the decision of “nipping” something “in the bud,” ignoring it, or addressing it.
- Ruleth Well His Own House** “Ruling” and “ruling well” are different things. It must be done with equity, embracing respect, compassion, and understanding. He must set the proper example. (Rom 14:22) “*Happy is he that condemneth _____ himself in that thing which he _____.*”