Sound Doctrine: 1st Timothy, 2nd Timothy & Titus

Double Honor

1st Timothy 5:17-25

Last Week: Widows & helps **Today:** Pastors & Paychecks (& more) • **Not a plea for money** • **When you give, give cheerfully** • **Sound doctrine: order in God's house** *1st Timothy keeps hitting all the sore spots*	**Christianity has real money trouble** • *Ch. 6 has the famous verse* • Some pastors demand too much • Some churches demand poverty for their pastor • Some pastors demand you give too much • Some Christians refuse to give
At the end of the day…it's night **Our ideas and opinions aren't needed**	**<u>The question is:</u> what does God's Word say about God's money, God's Church, and God's Pastors?**

[Pray] :17-18 **Elders who rule <u>well</u>** • Pastors pulling their weight • Living, leading, lifting **They are doing their "job"** **And doing it well** **Not a hireling** **Jhn 10:13 –** "The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. *"Does not own sheep" Just there for paycheck*	**<u>Double</u> honor** • respect enough of it to be paid • *Not just surviving, thriving* • R-E-S-P-E-C-T • paycheck **Qualified, tried, and enabled to minister** **Especially those who <u>teach</u>!** Senior pastor, studying, teaching, writing • **Pay those doing the work** • **Pay those doing the more work, especially spiritual work** **If we respect the work,** **we'll respect the worker** *Rich, foolishly looking down on the trades*
Not <u>opinion</u>…<u>God's Word</u> **Paul quotes Moses** OT Deut 25 **& Jesus** NT Luke 10:7 *Maybe saw Luke's first edition!*	**Muzzle an ox -** animals, things *Ox works for you, you live, ox dies, you die* **You take care even of <u>things</u> that care for you!**

Jesus <u>himself</u> says somebody does work, they get paid! *Matthew 20, Parable of workers* **You don't even have to convince the world of this basic truth!** ● *If you don't pay the plumber, you're a thief! Mechanics lien* ● *Don't pay for a meal and leave a tip? Thief and lowlife!*	**Hard to find a good doctor today** Overworked, underpaid *When I was young, everyone wanted to be a doctor - got paid really well for…fixing people's bodies! Caring for their lives!* **Why do we think our <u>spiritual doctors</u> shouldn't get paid?**
<u>Do we not think God's work, is work?</u> It's not a job, it's a calling…but it's still work! **<u>What is it in our hearts that disrespects</u> <u>(dishonors)</u>** **the <u>calling</u> and <u>needs</u> of the man (and his family) who feeds us and leads us in our walks with the Lord?** *How we treat our pastor is a direct reflection of how we treat the Lord* *"I can tell what people think of me by how they treat my kids"*	***If it's true in lesser things, how much more in the greater!*** **<u>Is Jesus a hypocrite?</u>** He preaches about workers and pay, But won't pay his own workers? *"It's spiritual pay! (reward)"* *Yes, that's our spiritual goal* *But life now has practical needs* **The practical enables the spiritual** *A building, food, chairs, and yes, paying the pastor so he can do the work instead of working for someone else*
Some Christians think paying their pastor is an <u>abomination</u>. **Money could be spent better elsewhere** *"The church should be using the money to support the needy. This is an attractive way of thinking, but it isn't Biblical." - DG* *Imagine I feed all the needy Helena kids and never feed my own…that what God wants?*	**Judas** **Jhn 12:5-6** – "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; **and he used to take what was put in it**. *We like the idea of spending church money in things that make us look good.* **<u>Not paying the pastor is a worse look.</u>**

<u>Full time ministry, full time pay</u> *"Such demanding duties would not allow time to work other jobs" PTW* **We should want our pastors to <u>focus</u> on…being our pastor!**	**Bi-vocational** Very normal, keeps the burden off a smaller or poorer congregation "**Gospel free of charge" "labored d&n"** The gospel is given freely, but is he, his work, his time, his family not worth it to you?
If he has to work all day, pastor all night, <u>When does he care for his family</u>? One will suffer. One will be sacrificed. **Mat 6:24** – "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. **He will be exhausted. Messages will suffer. Counseling unavailable. The body suffers.** He will hate his job, or hate the church, or hate his family.	**<u>A pastor should be willing to work But shouldn't be forced to</u>** **I think any pastor's desire is to be able to be paid to do what he loves** - ● working for God ● in God's house ● with God's people. *<u>He's never off the clock</u> (maybe from you, but not from the Lord)* *Bumped into pastor friend, tracking hours, over by Thurs - and taking on extra work* *"[paid] In proportion to their usefulness" - White*
Truth is, it's not <u>your</u> decision. *NY, never had earmarked donations* **The pastor doesn't work <u>for you</u> He works <u>for God</u>** **Your Savior, His boss** ● Called him to work - he does ● Called you to give - do you? **<u>Balanced Belief</u>** ● Not rich, not poor ● Not fleecing the flock ● Not starving his family ● Not demanding of you to be paid, ● Not demanding of him not be paid	**<u>Median</u> income (survive + thrive)** Relative to body, to area "living wage" *When you farm, fix, make, sell, working more (OT, more effort) should give you more pay* ● Helena Household **Median**: **$71k-98k** ● Let's say $50k/year ● Assuming tithe (another study for another day), each family $5k/year ● **10 faithful families, pastor paid** ● **Church expenses? 20 faithful families** *It's why the world loves subscriptions - forced faithfulness quickly adds up to a fortune* **<u>Your giving should not be forced</u>, cheerful You should be <u>cheerful when he's paid</u>!**

• *Pastoral "hazing" - abuse* • *He has to feed his family, he may leave the ministry*	***Collecting tithe, reverence, conviction*** *When you give, you share in the reward*
Galatians 6:6, 10 – Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. ... Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, **especially** to those who are of the household of faith.	• **You like Christians, right?** • **You like what God is doing, right?** • **You like your pastor, maybe?** • **You wouldn't like him to struggle?** • **You know he likes you, right?**

:19-20 **<u>Receive</u> an <u>accusation</u>** only hearsay until it's proven **How is it proven?** • 2-3 witnesses (people, evidence) • Two credible testimonies, with receipts **Even the Bible needs more than he-said-she-said to bring a conviction - especially with elders**	**<u>Why?</u>** • **Folks in sin hate the truth** • don't like being **corrected** • Reject Godly **authority** *"The reason of this difference is evident: those whose **business** it is to correct others will usually have many enemies;" Clarke* They don't like the elder, what he said, did, taught, looks like… **Just because they're <u>offended</u> doesn't mean he's sinning**
The enemy's tactic? **Kill the sheep.** **One way? <u>Attack the shepherd</u>.**	**Zech 13:7b** "Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered; Lies, gossip, slander **<u>- whatever it takes to get you to wander from the fold</u>**
*"The more sincerely any pastor strives to further Christ's kingdom, the more he is loaded with spite, the more fierce do the attacks upon him become. And not only so, but **as soon as any charge is made against ministers of the Word, it is believed as surely and firmly as if it had been already proved.***	*This happens not only because a higher standard of integrity is required from them, but because Satan makes most people, in fact nearly everyone, over credulous so that **<u>without investigation</u>, they eagerly condemn their pastors whose good name they ought to be defending.**"* - John Calvin

We can't condemn without <u>investigation</u> **We also can't ignore the <u>evidence</u>** Misused! **1 Chronicles 16:22** – Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm."	**<u>Leadership doesn't mean less accountability</u>** **If they do wrong, they, most of all, need to be dealt with** *"Pastoral leadership is a position that depends on character" PTW*
<u>If</u> it's true, correct, rebuke, <u>discipline</u> **Open church discipline reveals that <u>everyone</u> matters in God's eyes** • **The ministry is not the man** • **The ministry is to the people** • **He can't hide behind the pulpit or his influence** • **The sin was secret, but the discipline is not** **Num 32:23** – "But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.	**God is gracious for a season**, may offer chances to repent, even be corrected, but sin has **consequences…even if repented o** **<u>Discipline according to influence</u>** • TV Pastor? TV discipline • Small group issue? Small group discipline (potentially church too) **It's not about bringing <u>shame</u>** **It's about bringing <u>fear of the Lord</u>** To him, to the hurt, to the flock, to the world **Always with the heart of restoration to the Lord for all -** maybe not the ministry
<u>The result? Holiness</u> from the rest Acts 5, Ananias & Sapphira **Act 5:11** – So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things. **Fear, reverence and honor for God is the desired fruit**	**We need to take <u>seriously</u>** • Our relationship with Him • The deadliness of sin • Our relationship with & impact on others • Our witness to the world

:21-22, 24-25 **<u>Observe</u>** these things…**<u>guard</u>, keep watch**	**Matters of <u>divine judgment</u>** • **God himself**, and His angels, are watching what goes on in His church • **Better to be accountable now…than later**

No <u>partiality</u>

James, rich man, poor man, favoritism

“Opinion formed before facts are known”

These things

- Giving helps
- Paying pastors
- Ordaining pastors
- Disciplining pastors
- Restoring sinners to ministry
- Any leadership and church decision

What you endorse, approve, sign the check, either by action or inaction, is on you - Timothy

<u>You can’t be hasty</u> in ordaining

You have to watch someone’s life
to see who they really are

- It’s true in the world - hiring, promotion
- It’s true in relationships - gotta see who they are before you marry them

But how do we see as Christians?

Not with our eyes, but with God’s eyes

“You can't teach calling” - Jack Abeelan

“You can always see who the elders are, they're eldering” - Chuck Smith

<u>Holiness not just determined by what is visible…but by what isn’t</u>

- Some folks don’t hide their sin
- Some folks struggle with obvious sins
- Other folks hide their sin
- Others struggle with secret sin

It takes time, observation, prayer and spiritual discernment to see what someone is really like

1 Cor 12:8 “Word of knowledge”

Check in spirit over someone, can’t place it, pray about it, pray for them…want to be gracious…but it eventually is revealed

We miss the secret sin
Holy folks can end up falling, too

We have <u>enough sin of our own</u> to contend with

We don’t need to take part in anyone else’s <u>Keep yourself pure</u>

- Using pastoral authority to put them where they don’t belong
- Using pastoral authority to not take them out

<u>Take heart</u>

- Everyone’s called in ways to serve God
- So step out, and serve Him!
- Even if no one else sees, He sees
- And when He sees, He rewards

Matthew 6, charity left hand, right hand, pray in secret, Father rewards openly

<u>Fear as well…</u>

that secret sin, if not dealt with, with be revealed openly, too

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Thought amid a thought…don't forget to write it down (texting, emailing, quick note)

Yes, Paul, and pastors, are human, ordinary people too - called by God

<u>Timothy needed treatment</u>

- Paul not healed - grace is sufficient
- Timothy either

God prescribed a medicinal remedy

- Wine of their day vs. water
- Doctors of their day prescribed it, including Hipocates (Hipocratic Oath)

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Luke was a doctor and missionary.

- Paul's doctor
- might have even prescribed this!

Not for Timothy to get drunk

Replace the Holy Spirit with Wine & Spirits

- Timothy didn't want to drink
- Didn't want to set a bad example
- Cause anyone to stumble
- Risk being impaired

His health was getting in the way of his ministry

And **medicine**, the right dose, the right way, was **better for him and for others**

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Sometimes we think
we must <u>suffer</u> to be <u>holy</u>

And holiness does
<u>sometimes</u> requires suffering

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But sometimes, it's just our idea, <u>not God's will</u>

- It's the self-flagulation
- Our own attempt at holiness
- Asceticism of Ch. 4
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God does supernaturally heal
We should seek His healing first

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But he also blessed people with great intelligence
To create medicine, remedies, treatments

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- *Glad for modern medicine, doctors, facilities…*
- *They are blessings from God!*
- *God made people smart!*
- **Pray, be wise, go to the doctor**

Balanced Belief…doesn't mean

- we trust man over God
- we do what they say without thinking
- we take everything they prescribe that may be unholy (eastern medicine, THC, SSRIs, etc.)

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- **Are you honoring God today?**
- Are you convicted about something that is bringing him dishonor?
- Are you being led to do something practical to bring him more honor?

- **Honor Pastors, pay them**
- **Get involved in ministry, not other's sin**
- **Take your medicine, if you need to**
- **Fear God, keep watch over what He says**

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