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So we come to Well, finished by god's help. First Timothy chapter 5. And it deals. Now not with Uh, the role or roster? Of widows, but a roster of Paid elders. And in the last half of first, Timothy 5 or last third, i guess. Of first Timothy 5, this is not only those whose primary vocation is.

Uh, to preach and teach. Uh, the gospel. So verse 17, let the elders who rule? Well, Be counted worthy of double honor. Especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the scripture says, You shall not muzzle an ox, while it treads at the grain. And the laborer is worthy.

Of his wages. So not muzzle and ox while it treads while it treads out the grain, even for an animal, Part of the gratitude that you show. For the work that it does is allowing it to eat from its labor. And then the laborer being worthy of his wages, Uh, this is actually something incidentally that is quoted from luke chapter 10.

That is the only place that this particular phrase is found. The idea, of course, is found Uh, throughout the old testament. Um, And, I think in matthew. As the the scripture says there and quoting christ and his earthly ministry, That those who work should be able to each from their work.

But this particular quote is from the chapter 10. Now, one of the reasons that significant is As people who are. Unconverted and trying to conform more to this age. Leave the faith. Uh, one of the things that they often will tell you is, well, you know, Uh, The church decided what the bible was anyway.

Uh and they'll refer, you know, to the council of nycia or maybe one of the earlier canonical lists from the Uh, the third or fourth century and it'll sound very uh very historically informed. Um, like you pour Uh, fundamentalist christian, who actually believe that the bible is the word of god.

Well. The, the inspired writings. Of. Um, The spirit inspired writings that or the very word of god and Uh, given by the authority of god, they were being recognized in real time. As they were being written. Uh, we had occasion recently to reference Daniel chapter 9 again in which, Daniel, Recognized.

Jeremiah as Holy scripture is being recognized in real time, then it is. Uh it is folly to think that in the new testament to be inspiring inspiration of the new testament scriptures with christ, as the great prophet, the last word as the book of Hebrews opens by telling us and writing.

Now by apostles prophets and evangelists of his As they are his mouthpiece and his hand. It's foolish to think it was any different or any less. Immediate and authoritative to recognition. Uh, of God's word written. And so here, you have an example. Paul is writing to Timothy About the scripture that luke wrote.

I mean loot. Was their traveling buddy. They they've gone places together. They know his faults. They know he's a sinner. They have probably sinned against luke and been forgiven by

him and Luke was probably sinned against them and And been forgiven by, then they know his They know he's a mere man.

But they also know that what came off of his ten or the word of god, And surely paul, and Timothy know that about One another is as well, so it's worth noting that Luke 10 verse 7 here is quoted as scripture. As one of the things that, Um, In the In the first corinthians.

Uh, 12 through 14. Uh, section, especially in chapter Um, 14, i believe. Uh, where paul says if anyone claims To be a prophet. Let him recognize that i too have the spirit. And what he's saying is, Uh, someone who had the gift of Of prophecy in the new testament, period.

And as was, in the role of one of christ's prophets in the church. One of the things that they were due is they would identify that which was being written as scripture as scripture. So when first corinthians arrived in Corinth, There were men in Corinth who are gifted by the holy spirit to recognize first Corinthians as not the letter of a mere man, but as the word of god by the inspiration of the holy spirit through the apostle, Paul And here in, in first Timothy, Uh, paul is saying the same thing about the gospel of luke Uh, so you don't have to Uh, you don't have to worry or feel like somebody has Um, has discovered information that disproves something that you have have held to If they frown and tell you about how the church didn't know what the word of god was or the church decided what the word of god was that at just isn't true.

Anyway. So you have the, the Ox, which Should be free to. To get its living and then the laborer worthy of his wages. A big part of that. In the new testament and in the Old Testament, as well, it was commanded there. But in the in the world into which the bible was written, is that if you didn't get paid that day, you might not eat that day.

He might not eat the eat the next day, and so, The laborer should be able to labor and hope he shouldn't be laboring. And worrying. About whether or not he's going to be able to take care of himself. Or his family. And, If you, if you've ever seen. A.

Call contract. For a minister. One of the, one of the things that the call of a minister Uh, Will say is, That the congregation has promising. To relieve. The minister of all worldly, cares, all earthly cares for himself and his family. He should be able to labor in the ministry.

Not worrying that if he devotes himself entirely to the ministry and not, Uh, not trying to make money in some other way that somehow his family. Is not going to be provided for the laborers worthy of his wages. Uh, but the one he has his Uh, his calling his labor In the word indoctrinate, this is his His daily work verse 17.

Remember. There would don't forget when you read verse 17, that it's in the same context as verse 18. So it's describing Those who labor in the word indoctrinate. Would mentioned by vocational ministers. Uh, before and how i've heard in some places, a, a real value. And by vocational ministers, usually, it's places where you have dining churches that can't afford to pay a living wage or stingy churches that won't afford to pay.

A living wage, which often become the dying? Churches. Um, As as a result. But the bible. Uh, has a word in verse 17, for bible by vocational ministers, it's elders. Above vocational. Minister is a ruling yeller. Every ruling elder is as it were. By vacational minister, he has his daily labor.

Yeah, as we call it a nine to five the whole. Yeah. Rest of the history of humanity laughs at us for that. Um, but he has his, he has his. Yeah, some of you don't work, nine to five either and praise God for that. Um, The, the elder ordinarily has his daily labor and something else.

And yet there is the same principle Uh, that he needs to be able to devote himself to praying for and shepherding the congregation to participate in the teaching ministry. And it may be necessary to fill in gaps financially for an elder's family that so that he can put the sort of time and to be in an elder as is really necessary.

He doesn't just sit on an executive board of the church that meets nine times a year. Uh, he has a, he has a A calling that is that is going to take some time and maybe take some resources. And and the church if it has elders, he Who would be helped?

Uh, to labor faithfully in the ministry, in their ministry. Ought to have. A view towards. Uh, helping them out even up to the We've already even up to the point of, you know, double Uh, what? What you would? Uh, a regular daily laborers. Uh, wage as it were. Uh, sorry dave.

Help me resolve that person holders, 10 times a year. No, it's not. We we had thought it was 10. But, But it turned out to be nine, which meant Planning to skip october. Which may be tempting providence because then we have to hit november and december. Um, Which anyway, neither here nor there, since we mentioned it.

Um, I guess there's just Uh, one family here, that our members, i'd say don't feel singled out but you're singled out.

If you're attending regularly, And the lord is shepherding. And instructing views. Part of this church invite you to To come on november 16th through before for membership. We'll talk about that some other Uh, some other time. Um, but there are Um, For, for all y'all, they're a couple other.

Um, Folks, that you can just very kind of friendly. Say, you know, i saw where it said in a harbinger or in the session meeting digest that I forget which assault we're pastor wrote that if you're not a member yet and you're acting like a member you should you should covenant yourself.

So when you're going to become a member, And your elders will do that too. Uh, but the point in verse 17 is not to make sure that the elders Uh, Are just taking care of it to facilitate their ability to rule. Well let elders who rule. Well Be counted worthy of double honor, and that does cut two different ways.

Uh, one is Uh, Uh, congregation That is experiencing. The kind of separating ministry for instance, that we That we saw paul teach and model to the Ephesian elders in Acts chapter 20. Uh, should show gratitude with gratuity. I mean, everybody expects a tip today, america's gone crazy. Um, You know.

Anyway. I'll do that soapbox on something other than the lord's day. Um, but you should We we should receive such a ministry is As makes us want to tip our elders, so to speak. Um, but the other thing is, Um, If? A congregation is committed to that. It does emphasize to the elder.

And reinforce to him how important it is that he would rule and shepherd. Well, I think it's rare enough in our Culture and our church culture that every one of us have been in a situation where we were not actively shepherded let alone. Shepherded well, actively In the church.

Uh, but that that should be A congregational value. And then there's especially then the value those who the who their daily calling is to labor in the word and doctrine. And in order to labor, in teaching, the word doctrine is the word. Word for teaching in order to labor and teaching, and preaching, there has to be labor in the word.

A man who has not. Studied carefully and meditated deeply. Upon the word of god. Is is not prepared. To labor, then in preaching and teaching it the way. Uh, that that particular Of preaching and teaching ministry. The the way the lord wants his church to have that particular preaching and teaching ministry.

Yes, there are these five vocational ministers that are called elders. And first Timothy 5:17 which by the way, is one of the reasons why i'm a two office guy, not a three office guy Uh, one of the reasons why. Um, Our dear brother, who Um, he takes it very seriously and it's a little bit outside, has comfort zone is going to Prepare and preach lord willing.

For us november 5th. So Pray and anticipate that with pray for jim and anticipate that. With joy. But, The bible vocational ministry is not the ordinary preaching and teaching ministry among god's people. There is a value here. In first Timothy 5:17 for what we call the teaching elder, Um, the one who Who gives his life?

To this. Uh, now That means that there's a lot riding on him and he should Um, Uh, he should watch. Against sin and himself and the elders. Should watch against sand in the other elders. Verse 19. Do not receive an accusation against. An elder except from two or three witnesses, those who are sinning.

Rebuke in the presence of all. That the rest also may fear now. Verse 19 is just. Uh, part of biblical justice and righteousness. That accusations are not brought as hearsay. Um, Uh, Uh, just by The one and Uh, Deuteronomy 19:15 for instance and the The the bringing of a witness.

Uh, to interact with somebody who's sinned against you doesn't mean if you're the only one, Uh who knew about it that it can't be dealt with you. Do confront personally and then bring A second. There are situations where Um, you involve an authority or a defender immediately. Uh, anyway, there's there's a There's a whole complex of things there.

If If you are sinned against, And you need that the by the witness of two or three witnesses, something be established. Uh, don't feel like you can't come to in fact, urge you To come to one of your elders including myself and we'll help you. Um, work through matthew 18.

Uh, but one of the One thing that happens is if somebody is preaching and teaching, especially if they're preaching and teaching the truth, Um, and then if the congregation is supporting them, they also can become easy targets. Um, Or lightning rods for accusation now. It's important. That the sins of elders and ministers to be.

Recognized repented of Uh, and rebuked verse 20, but it's also important that in Even in their case, if we're valuing the ministry, Um, like we should verse 7 and 18, 17 and 18. Then we need to follow the The standards, the parameters of biblical justice. In. Verse 19. One of the places, then my dear children.

All a couple dozen of you who are present. Um, One of the places where we learned to follow matthew, 18 is in a household, especially a household with multiple siblings. Because you will get lots of practice. At being sinned against. And being confronted for sinning against In a house with multiple siblings and you will learn not to just run off and be a tail bearer.

Uh, but to love your brother or sister. Uh, not to use, you've sinned against me as Um, As you know, it's coming next, i don't want to tell, if you don't If you don't fix this. Uh, but learning to approach things from the standpoint of wanting to recover your brother.

That's the goal in matthew, 18 recovering, your brother recovering your sister And so, the lord says, Love your neighbor as yourself. Lord says, love your brother as christ is love you. He also

says love your enemies. And so we never, we never have an excuse from god to treat anyone adversarially to treat anyone.

Um, with enmity just because they have treated us with enmity. He started it as a non-starter. Uh, He's okay. He started it. Then what are you supposed to do? Do you love the one who started it? They're acting like an enemy. What does god say to do? With your enemy?

Love your enemy. Well. How do you love him? Were you trying to recover him when you told him what he did? Are, were you just trying to Beat him over the head with how bad a thing he did. Because those are two different things. Uh, you know, taking the moral high ground is not the same thing as trying to grab the person who slipped off of it and pulled them up to the moral high ground.

With you. You want everybody to be on the moral high ground. And so there's this desire to recover one another, there's this desire to be used by god for one another's. Good. And that even applies To win a minister sins, especially When the minister sends because we should all be afraid of sinning.

Those who are sinning. Notice that? That's an ongoing unrepented sort of thing, not every last sin of the minister universe. Um, verse 20 is not. Uh, let's make sure every last sin of the minister is is used to to Uh, keep him humble. Um, You know, the old Scott's Presbyterian prayer prayer for your minister.

Um, This isn't actually a Scotts Presbyterian prayer. It's just a joke about well There's too much truth in it. Lord will keep him poor. You keep him humble. Um, But verse 20 is reminding us that we should fear sin. The bible and history are full. Of men who were in high position even and especially within the church, To when they begin to back slide.

We're not confronted. We're not rebuked. We're not recovered. And ministries and churches and nations. Have been ruined. Or suffered harm. We should all be afraid of sinning. And this is important for you to hear because we live in an age where even in the reformed churches. You hear preaching that says, that we shouldn't feel guilty about our sin or we shouldn't be afraid of sin, which and only ever operate, Out of Uh out of cheerful confidence in god.

Well, yes god exists, you should operate out of cheerful confidence, and god. But sin also exists and you should flee temptation and you should grieve over your sin and you should aid it, and you should fear falling into it and cling cheerfully to the god, who is your only hope for not falling into it.

If you cling to yourself in your rules because you're afraid of sin, then you're just an idiot a spiritual idiot. Um, and we've all been that spiritual idiot, haven't we? But, But because we value the the ministry and want its fruits to be preserved, those who are sending Um, Review.

And so, this also, For the process of ordination, especially for ordination. To the ministry, this informs. Um, this informs how those who are elders, already, how timothy is to interact? Uh, with other elders. So he needs to watch out for his own sin. Observe these things without prejudice, do nothing with partiality.

Which means? Uh, whatever elder it is. Uh, that is That is. Uh, sinning should not make a difference for how aggressively you approach, it. There needs to be, or lack of aggressively. And i can think of situations. Um, You know, kiper Uh, taught some error and probably needed to to be corrected and And there were friends of his.

Uh, in in the dutch reform, churches in the netherlands. Uh, both because of their friendship and because of their perception of Of how much good they thought kifer was doing. Uh, his errors, theological errors, and some things that you did that weren't particularly Biblical didn't get corrected and looked at what came of the churches.

Uh, truck finney was a Presbyterian. He should have been excommunicated for his heresy. With with directness and speed and seriousness. Uh, but Presbyterians incentives can end up being good old boys, clubs, where you're two partial to one another and you, you don't, uh, follow through on what you need to do.

Yeah, people didn't like making. And so they were quick to jump over on anything that they could find as an excuse against him. Partiality in the process of Um, Of how we deal with elder sins. Can can be very harmful to the church. So there's a valuing of the ministry in verse.

In verse 20 and there's a valuing of the ministry in verse 21. There's a valuing, the ministry in verse 22. If the elders lay hands on someone quickly, If they don't. Follow the first Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Procedure for ordination of elders if they don't follow the, the first Timothy three procedure for the Ordination of deacons.

They just oh man, we need some deacons. Let's get him in here yesterday. And, you know, they they either are hasty in the laying on of hands. Or they by hands on someone who's young in the faith was as we've seen. Also is not to be done, then when that person sins come to light, The elders are actually culpable.

For having lay their hands-on quickly because god warned them. And then, Very, very quickly. Let me Finished and that because i'm running out of time and then i'll i'll get to you. When he tells. Timothy no longer drink only water but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.

It's as hard work to be an elder. The. He has to take care of his health and then. The word stomach is used, here the wave. The way we often use, it is also. In first century week, it's used like you'd use guts And Timothy. Seems to have had a timid character.

Uh, he had to be told to let no one. Like no one disregard him. And, This may include advice that he has a glass of wine before a session meeting. Um, Don't want to don't want to take that too far, but There is definitely. A seriousness and a willingness.

There are times to fast, there are Uh, there are times where we embrace weakness, but a man, generally speaking should be strong for his family, and then a man who is an office in the church, should take Should view the, the Um, The strength and health that god has given him has not belonging to him.

It belongs in part to the church. For the good of god's people. You can pray for me for. Uh, my own care of my health and then Uh, verse 24 and 25. Urging. And this relates back up to verse 19 and verse 19 and 20. Carefulness, and persistence. An investigation.

Of reports of sin, some men sins are clearly evident proceeding them to judgment. Those are the easy ones and that case you just have to be courageous. Um, And, And follow the procedure for church discipline those of some follow later. Which means you need to do your due diligence and make sure, uh, you investigate thoroughly.

Don't don't forget proverbs 18 and how one person seems to be, right? Until another one comes and asks a question, and you shouldn't answer a matter before you're finished before

you finish hearing it. Uh, you know, the longer you live kids, the more situations. You'll be in where you were, sure.

You knew what was going on in a particular situation of conflict. Where particular situations someone else? Someone reliable has. Told you what their experience was, you have no reason to doubt them. Uh, but there was more information than they knew they were misperceiving or Or whatever. But happily. And this should be the case.

When we investigate elders more often than not, The good works of some are clearly evident. Already. And those that are otherwise cannot be hidden. You start investigating the, the situation, because the ministry needs to be protected and For ministers, name needs to be cleared. A minister should always be happy.

Um, To be investigated if the if the elders say it's necessary. It's always a red flag for me to Presbytery in a presbytery situation. Where, when the Presbytery does not want to. Investigate, or even the man accused does not want to investigate an accusation of significant sin. Because it is important to vindicate, the name Of the of the minister of indicate, the name of the elder so that his usefulness and fruitfulness and ministry.

Can be strengthened and verse 25 is describing that Um, If we are following biblical, guidelines ministers and elders, do not generally stand on the, on the rooftop and announce all the good they've been doing. Uh, but sometimes god's way of bringing the good that a man has been doing to light is, even though he wasn't letting his right hand know, it has left hand was doing He got accused of a sin, and so there had to be an investigation.

And rather than the investigation bringing us into light, it actually brought godliness to light. And how much strength and then would administry be in that case. Um, So, as far as Elders or deacons work in verse 17 through 25. There is of course Uh, relieving The minister and his family's earthly needs and any elders and their families.

Uh, earthly financial needs so that they can rule well in their eldership as well. Uh, there is the care. For the elder and the and the ministers. Um, physical health. Uh, And, The, the other stuff is just part of a congregational. Um, a congregational value. Upon the the ministry that is going to be expressed financially.

There's more involved in taking care of elders and And preachers than just making sure the family eats. And that the family isn't worried there should be the expression of a congregational value. All right. So sorry, dave, He's going to say that. Over the years, not much, people say the job or an eldest job.

Easy, especially ministries, just about preach one side. Good gift. And I was just encourage you to. If you think that way, three percent norm equals to take many many hours, Probably. I don't know. I my dad was minister so he takes more hours. Of preparation. Plus we, as elders.

We have families, we have personality, we have issues. Within our families, we have the same struggles and everyone else has And we also bear the virgin or maybe in church melon as we not even really contribute everything that's going on but at times we we need all those things that we We we have to deal with and carry with it because they do place to turn on.

Probably the greatest. Compensation of enumeration. That. That we can have and that we're able to see those Under our charity. Emulate in word and the meaning both your understanding of the word of god. But also in how you conduct yourself, how you operate within the church to me, that's the greatest blessing.

Thank you. Since we do have a number of young men that i hope will god will call to the ministry. Um, You say a couple things about that. The first thing, Is that there is such a thing. As a minister, who has an easy gig, A faithful minister. Is a calling that you never get time off of because you don't get to stop being a minister.

Uh, Ever. But i have known. I need them in seminary, i know them now in the pastorate. Many men. Who did have and do have an easy gig. And they'll often be the same sorts of men, who Um, Uh, who will talk about how it's pastorally wise not to have exegetical or or doctrinal preaching?

Um, because if you can have preaching light, Then you can have studying light and And you can, you know, You can think that your ministry is to make sure you play golf with every man in the congregation on a regular basis. Or or whatever it is. So if you are called to the ministry, Plan to devote your whole life to it.

A second thing is, The, the minister must not be a lover of money. And so, He should be. Yeah, percentage wise especially if the congregation is following the instruction of this text. Uh, one of the top givers to the church. Uh, even if the church doesn't know, it god knows it and you should have you should have the character that's described in chapter 3.

Especially if you're getting compensated in the way in chapter 5. Um, so And if if a minister is is frugal and generous that also will will help guard the ministry from the accusations that we were talking about. Um, But yes. Uh, dave is exactly. Right, the first and the first compensation of course Is the pleasure of god in his son.

As he sees his son's character and ministry. Um, Imitated displayed in the minister's own. Character and ministry, but the second greatest pleasure is, you know, third, john verse 4. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children. Walk in truth. Um, Yeah, the church in Mississippi when we were leaving.

But to plant the church in iowa. They gave us a plaque with that on it, and god forgive me for How unbelieving and difficult? Yeah. How much difficulty i have and seeing how good has worked is and I am so grateful to him for his fruit and in your life, but that was the moment when i opened that thing up and i saw third John verse 4 like oh they get it.

That this is, this is what we want. Um, I hope that you children know that about your parents. That their greatest joy is to see you walking in the truth. And i hope that the congregation Knows that about all of their elders. That. That's that's what we want from you.

That's what we want. From god for you. All right, let's pray. Our father in heaven. How we thank you and praise you. That you gave your son. Lord, jesus. We thank you and praise you. That when you ascended on high, you gave gifts among men including Uh, those as including an, especially those Uh, through whom you minister, your word to us.

Uh, the separate teachers. And we pray o lord that as you have placed such value on the ministry, you would give to us. Took place. Uh, such value in the ministry and that you would bless O, Lord, that which you have appointed by bearing fruit unto the joy of your people.

But especially unto the glory of our lord jesus. In his name, we ask it. Amen.