

INTRODUCTION

As the disciples of Jesus Christ,

-we desire to think about things that are true, that are honest, that are just, that are pure, that are lovely, that are of good report, that are virtuous, that are praiseworthy.

-we want to learn the Christian life from the example and doctrine of our Lord's apostles: Paul, Peter, John, etc.

-we love to meditate on what can be known of our Master, Jesus Christ: the character He displayed here on earth, so we can be more conformed to His image, so we can walk as He walked.

As we study through 1 Timothy, we come to chapter 3, which informs us that for a man to be chosen to the important work and office of a bishop, he must first be judged blameless. In the lines of scripture that explain what that means, we come to a passage of scripture that provides us opportunity to do those things I just mentioned: to think about what is excellent, to learn about Christian living, to meditate on the character of Christ. Because the terms we encounter in this passage of scripture on a bishop being blameless are the same terms we find in several other places in the Bible. The graces required in a man to hold office in the church are the same graces to which we all are exhorted.

Certainly we study this passage of scripture so we can use it for its main purpose: to train us in how to choose men for office in the church as pastors or as deacons. But as we do that, we may make more use of this passage of scripture than just that.

See how we all may make use of this passage of scripture that describes the character of a blameless man.

TEXT

1 Timothy 3:2-3

BODY

See how we all may make use of this passage of scripture that describes the character of a blameless man.

- I. See the Simple Organization of this Passage of Scripture
 - A. Part of expounding what is meant by “blameless” or “above reproach”
 - B. Place
 1. After “husband of one wife”
 2. Before three things that have some explanation with them
 - a) 1 Tim 3:4-5
 - b) 1 Tim 3:6
 - c) 1 Tim 3:7
 - C. Structure
 1. Five adjectives
 - a) one word in the Greek
 - b) in English
 - (1) one word; or
 - (2) two words hyphenated; or
 - (3) a three-word phrase
 2. Three 2-word phrases with the word “not” or “no”
 3. One adjective with “but”
 4. Two adjectives with “not” prefix
- II. Let Everyone Here Use this Passage of Scripture to Guide Your Thoughts About Jesus Christ
 - A. His character
 1. e.g. 2 Cor 10:1 “by the meekness and gentleness of Christ”
 2. He is the only man who walked this earth never straying from this character;
 - a) He is worthy of all our praise
 - b) He is worthy of all our trust
 - c) He is worthy of all our allegiance
 3. His character shows the perfect obedience required by God
 4. His character shows the perfection of His sacrificial death
 - B. His faithfulness to us
 1. Jesus Christ promised He would be with us to the end
 2. He promised to be with His churches, no matter how small they might be, even if only two or three people
 3. the Bible says that when we think of His promise to be with us, these character qualities are developed in us
 - C. His coming - it is good to think of His coming; when you think of His coming, let your mind go to this description of a blameless man;
 1. you don’t have unlimited time to become like this
 - a) to do the good that a person like this can do
 - b) to be found like this when He comes
 2. let the difficulty in shaping the character to this model cause you to yearn for the grace of Jesus Christ to change you in an instant when He comes

Let everyone here use this passage of scripture to guide your thoughts about Jesus Christ

III. Let the Men and Boys Use this Passage of Scripture to Guide the Formation of Your Character

- A. The old men are to learn to be like this, as is fitting for your station in life
 - 1. your gray hair or bald heads should indicate a high level of accomplishment in building this kind of character
 - 2. the young should be able to look up to you as good examples of men who have these qualities
 - 3. application: some of you who are not old yet, don't wait until you are old
 - 4. application: be moved by the fact that those younger than you will be influenced by you, either for good or for bad
- B. The younger men are to learn to be like this, as is unusual for your station in life
 - 1. it is unusual for the young men of the world to have these qualities
 - a) for the most part, the world does not expect young men to be like this
 - b) and excuses them for not being like this
 - 2. but you are the disciples of Jesus Christ, and are to demonstrate this character even while you are young
 - 3. certainly Jesus our Master was like this while He still was young
 - a) a glimpse when He was just 12
 - b) when He began preaching and working miracles He was about 30
 - 4. the Bible says that Timothy was of this character when he was still young

Let everyone here use this passage of scripture to guide your thoughts about Jesus Christ

Let the men and boys use this passage of scripture to guide the formation of your character

IV. Let the Women and Girls Use this Passage of Scripture to Guide the Formation of Your Character

- A. What is required for an old widow to be put on the list
- B. What is required in a woman if her husband is to be made a bishop or deacon
 - 1. it is not that a man must be like this to be an officer, but his wife need not be like this; instead, both man and wife must be like this
 - 2. the first quality listed in verse 3 is the third quality listed in verse 11 for officers' wives
 - a) to be considered blameless, so he can serve as a pastor or a deacon, a man must have the quality of being watching, vigilant, temperate, sober-minded
 - b) but so must his wife
 - c) so, if there is such a man, blameless in this way, but his wife is not, he cannot be chosen by the church to serve in office
- C. What the older women are to train the younger women to be
- D. How women are to adorn themselves instead of adorning themselves with the outward adornment that the women of the world love
 - 1. some of the terminology here is the same we have already studied in the passage about how women are to adorn themselves

Let everyone here use this passage of scripture to guide your thoughts about Jesus Christ

Let the men and boys use this passage of scripture to guide the formation of your character

Let the women and girls use this passage of scripture to guide the formation of your character

V. Let All the Saints Learn from This Passage How to Defend Yourselves from Your Enemies: the World, the Flesh, and the Devil

- A. In living like this, you are not following the ways of the world
 - 1. you are not lulled to sleep regarding evil, as they are
 - 2. you do not accept their false version of wisdom, but instead seek the true wisdom that if from above
- B. In living like this, you are putting to death the fleshly lusts or passions that war against your soul, having the victory over the flesh that Jesus Christ has won for us in His death, burial, and resurrection
- C. In living like this, you are avoiding being devoured by the devil
 - 1. he cannot sneak up on you because you are watching
 - 2. he cannot harm you because you have on the armor of God

Let everyone here use this passage of scripture to guide your thoughts about Jesus Christ

Let the men and boys use this passage of scripture to guide the formation of your character

Let the women and girls use this passage of scripture to guide the formation of your character

Let all the saints use this passage of scripture to learn how to defend yourselves from your enemies

VI. Let the Church Use this Passage of Scripture to Keep Peaceful Unity in the Church

- A. Christians who are intent on growing to be blameless, as described here, normally do well in keeping the church in a state of peaceful unity
 - 1. not causing trouble by bad behavior
 - 2. quickly solving any trouble that does arise by rebuke and repentance and forgiveness

CONCLUSION

Let everyone here use this passage of scripture to guide your thoughts about Jesus Christ

Let the men and boys use this passage of scripture to guide the formation of your character

Let the women and girls use this passage of scripture to guide the formation of your character

Let all the saints use this passage of scripture to learn how to defend yourselves from your enemies

Let the church use this passage of scripture to keep peaceful unity in the church

Rita - Prelude (Please pick something.)

Rita - Trinity 216 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Anna - Trinity 447 "Blessed Are the Undefined in Heart"

Allison - Trinity 713 "I Am Thine, O Lord"

Dillon - Call to Worship: Ephesians 1:3-7

Jeremiah - Scripture Reading: Psalm 119:1-8

Jeff - Congregational Prayer

Jeff - Benediction - Jude 24-25

G3524 *nephaleos*

This is required of the wives of deacons

All Christians are exhorted to this as part of putting on the armor of God (1 Thess 5:6-8)

This is what is necessary because the devil is like a lion seeking whom he may devour

These are the graces by which we will avoid being devoured by the roaring lion. 1 Peter 5:8

G4998 *sophrone*

This is what the older women are supposed to train the younger women to be

Both older men and younger men are exhorted to this

This is how the man was out of whom Jesus cast the legion of demons

This is how we live when we deny worldly lusts

This is how we live in light of the fact that the end of all things is at hand

G2887 *kosmios*

This is the same thing as how women are to dress themselves

G5382 *philoxenos*

This is what righteous men of the distant past were like, e.g. Abraham and Lot

This is what Jesus mentioned that those on His right hand had done unto Him.

G3361 G3943 *me paroinos*

This is the behavior older women are urged to as becomes holiness

G1933 *epieikes*

This is what the whole church is to be put in mind of. These are the things that all of us need to be put in mind of (Titus 3:1-2), but that to be chosen as a bishop, a man must clearly already be in mind of.

This is wisdom from above, over against the wisdom that is earthly, sensual, devilish (James 3:15)

This is characteristic of Christ (2 Cor 10:1)

G269 *amochos*

This quality keeps us from being unprofitable

This quality comes when we deny lust that is warring in our members

G866 *aphilarguros*

These qualities are what develop in us when we remember our Lord's promise that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

These are the graces by which we get at the root of problems with sin. (1 Tim 6:10)

This is what "farther sanctification" is producing in us.
pruning by the Gardener

JRY:

We have an opportunity here to set our eyes on what is good, what is excellent, what is noble.

We do not aspire to omnipotence; we do not aspire to omnipresence; we do not aspire to performing miraculous signs; we do not aspire to hear God speak to us verbally; we do not aspire to an emotional religious experience because of how it feels; but to these things, we do aspire!

