

1 TIMOTHY 3

NLET

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN OVERSEER

1b If anyone stretches himself out to be an overseer, he sets his heart on a beautiful work.

2 So then, *it is necessary that* the overseer be –

- unassailable,
- a man of one woman,
- sober,
- of sound mind,
- orderly,
- loving strangers,
- apt at teaching,
- 3 not addicted to wine,
- not a brawler,
- not sordidly greedy of gain¹, rather
- reasonable,
- disinclined to fight,
- not loving silver,
- 4 standing well at the head of the household *that* his own,
- having children in order under him along with all dignity. 5 (Now, if someone does not know to stand at the head of his own household, how shall he take care of an *ekklesia*² of God?!)
- 6 not a neophyte (lest, being deluded, he might fall for a decision of the Slanderer).

7 Now *it is necessary that* he³ have a beautiful commendation from those outside, lest he might fall into reproach and a *death*trap of the Slanderer.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS

8 In the same way, *it is necessary that* deacons⁴ be

–

- revered,
- not double-tongued,
- not turning *their* attention to much wine,
- not sordidly greedy of gain,

¹ 69.9% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the words translated as ‘not sordidly greedy of gain’ here.

² ‘ekklesia’ – a transliteration of the Greek word ἐκκλησία. It means ‘an assembly of those called out of society by authorities to carry on some important public function’. Similarly, God calls Christians out of society to important functions for Him.

³ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the pronoun translated as ‘he’ here.

- 9 possessing the Mystery of the Faith with the inward state of a clear conscience.

10 Now, let these also be proven first. Then let them serve, there being no ground for dispute.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONESSSES

11 In the same way, *it is necessary that* women *who are deaconesses* be –

- revered,
- not slanderous,
- sober,
- faithful in all *things*.

TWO MORE QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS

12 Let deacons keep on being

- men of one woman,
- standing well at the head of his children and his own household.

THE BLESSINGS OF SERVING

AS DEACONS OR DEACONESSSES

13 For, the ones who have served as deacons well have acquired for themselves a beautiful degree of honor and much freedom of speech by means of a faith – namely, the *Faith* situated in an anointed One – *that is*, Jesus.

WHY PAUL IS WRITING THESE THINGS IN THIS LETTER

14 I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you quickly⁵.

15 Now, if ever I might delay, I am writing these things to you in order that you might lastingly know how it is necessary to conduct oneself in a household of God, which is an *ekklesia called out* by God – *that is*, a living God, a pillar and a stay of the Truth.

THE GREAT MYSTERY OF THE PIETY

16 And, confessedly, GREAT is the Mystery of the Piety –

“God⁶

- was manifested by means of flesh,

⁴ ‘deacons’ – a transliteration of the Greek word διακόνους. It refers to men who carry on important practical functions in an *ekklesia*.

⁵ 92.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘quickly’ here. On the basis of 2% the NU has a prepositional phrase ‘in haste’.

⁶ 98.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘God’ here instead of a masculine, relative pronoun without a certain antecedent.

- was pronounced righteous in the state of *His* spirit,
- was seen by *human* messengers,
- was heralded among the ethnicities,
- was believed in the *Created* Order,
- was lifted up with high esteem!"