**GOOD CHRISTIAN OVERSEERS**

1 Timothy 3:1-16 Key Verse: 3:1

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task.

1. Read verse 1. What is Paul's trustworthy saying? What is an overseer? In what sense are all Christians leaders in the world? (Mt 5:14) What is the "noble task"? (2Ti 3:16,17) Why must one who would be a leader make such a decision of faith? (Acts 19:21; Jn 6:66-69)

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task.

Overseer is a person who [oversees](https://www.dictionary.com/browse/oversee); supervisor; manager

**14**“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

**16**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17**so that the servant of God[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29871a)] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**21**After all this had happened, Paul decided[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+19%3A21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-27607a)] to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. “After I have been there,” he said, “I must visit Rome also.”

**66**From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

**67**“You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.

**68**Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. **69**We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

2. What are the basic qualifications for a Christian leader? (2-3) How is "self-controlled." related to the other qualifications in verses 2-3? (Pr 16:32) Why is showing hospitality important?

**2**Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, **3**not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

**32**Better a patient person than a warrior,  
    one with self-control than one who takes a city.

3. What does it mean to "manage his own family well"? (4,5,12) How can one do this? Why is this necessary for one who would be a leader? What can we learn in verses 6-7 about how to defeat the devil?

**4**He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29736a)] respect. **5**(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) **6**He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. **7**He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap.

4. Read verses 8-12. What kind of persons should deacons be? Why should they be diligent Bible students? (9; Jn 8:31,32)) What kind of persons should the wives of leaders be? (11) What are the marks of a trustworthy woman?

**8**In the same way, deacons[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29740b)] are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. **9**They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. **10**They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

**11**In the same way, the women[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29743c)] are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

**12**A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. **13**Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

5. Read verses 14-15. Who belongs to God's household? Why is the church that teaches the Bible called the "pillar and foundation of truth"? Compare verse 16 with Jn 1:14. How does this poem describe the gospel of Jesus and proclaim its power and glory?

**14**Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, **15**if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

**16**Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great:

He appeared in the flesh,  
    was vindicated by the Spirit,[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+3&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29748d)]  
was seen by angels,  
    was preached among the nations,  
was believed on in the world,  
    was taken up in glory.