

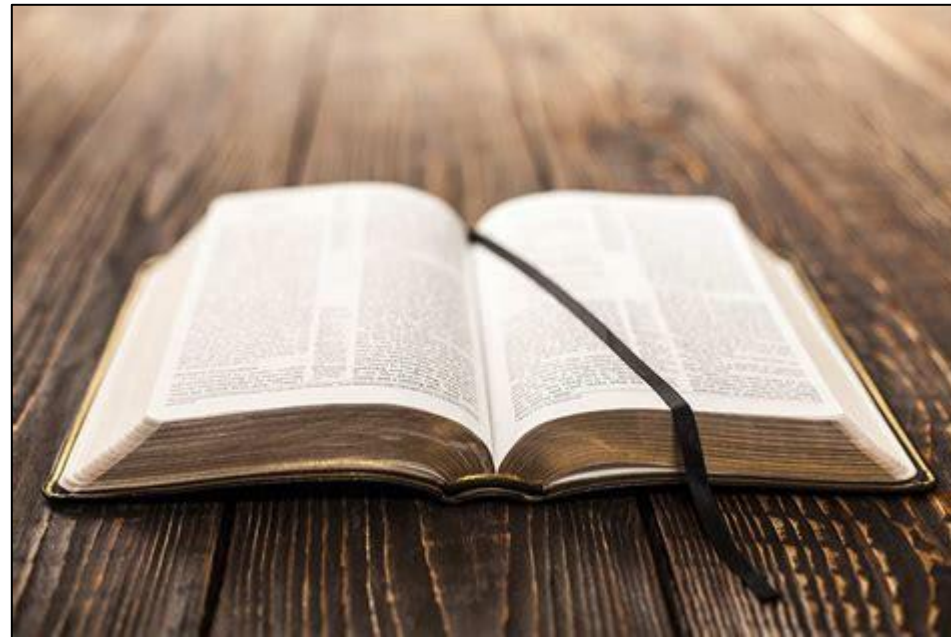
1 Timothy 5:17-25 Leaders in the church

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."

Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.

I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favouritism.

Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure. Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses. The sins of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them. In the same way, good deeds are obvious, and even those that are not cannot be hidden.



The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

A job to do - 'direct' = Lead from front?



Plural in 1 church

A paid ministry ?

The elders who direct the affairs of the church **well are worthy of double honour**, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

(cf previous support for widows)

Reward – double pay?

Cf Paul's example as a church planter

Mean churches to the pastor?



The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, **especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.**

Differing elder roles?
Work (toil) is the word

Is there a difference between preaching
and teaching?



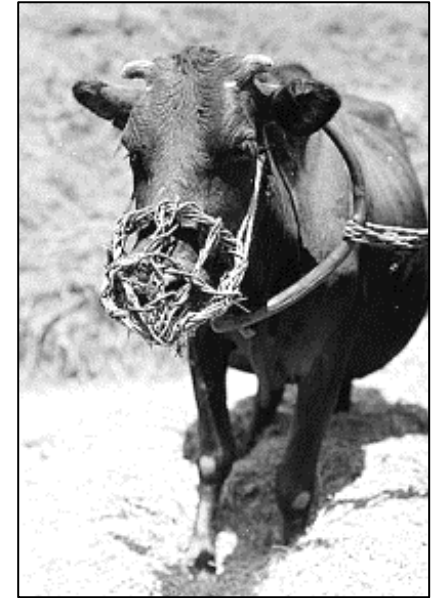
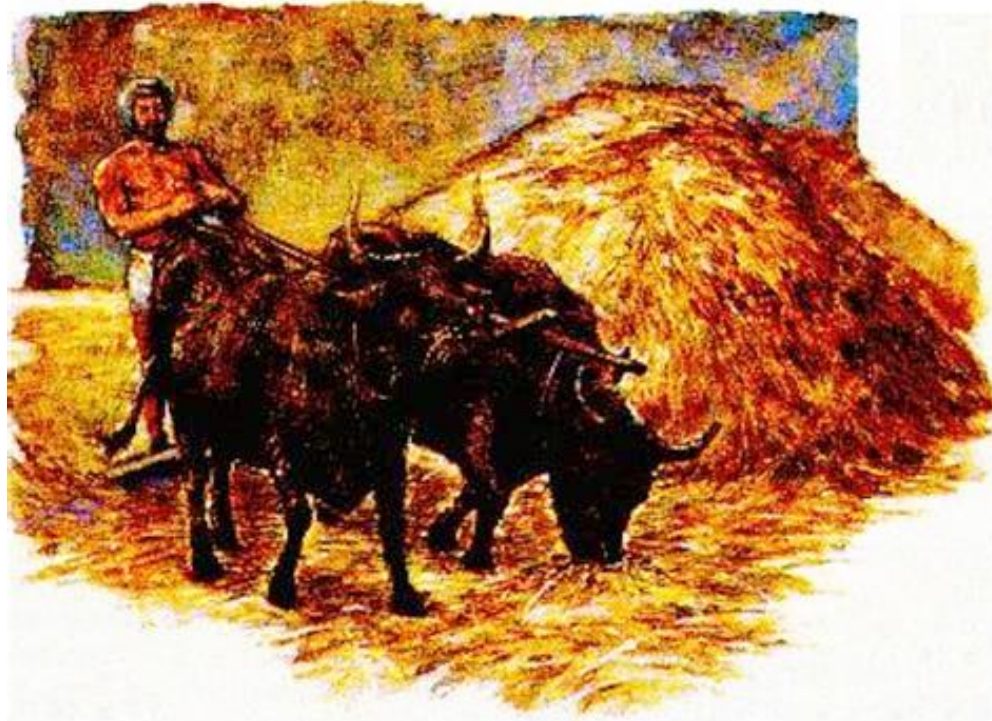
For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."

Scripture lessons for the present situation

Where the quotes come from:-

Deuteronomy 25:4

Luke 10:7 (scripture!)



For the Scripture says, "**Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,**" and "The worker deserves his wages."

Note Paul's use of texts - a 'spiritualised' application beyond the obvious - cf. It's not just about animals? 1 Corinthians 9:9



For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "**The worker deserves his wages.**"

Both quotations point to work and due reward



Danger of trouble-makers

Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses.

We have an enemy :-

Those who are called to 'lovingly' correct others will usually have enemies.

THE ACCUSER



Danger of corrupt leaders

Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses.

We have an enemy in both cases:-

Proof – not gossip and substantial proof is required

This comes from the OT law court

Deuteronomy 19:15

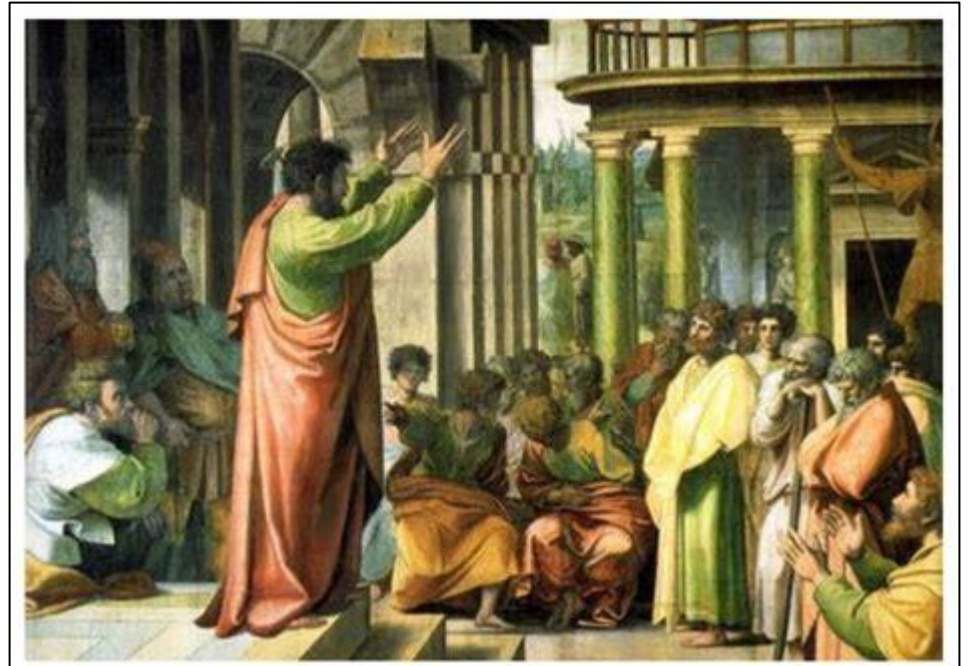


Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.

These things happen –
(When they think they are unaccountable)

Public sin which includes false teaching
needs public correction cf. Galatians 2:11

Dealing with 'private' matters is different
Matthew 18:15-17



Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.

Justice is seen to be done
Warning to those tempted to try



No one exempt from accountability

I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels,

A Solemn oath – Why? This is serious and vital to the health of the church and the progress of the gospel

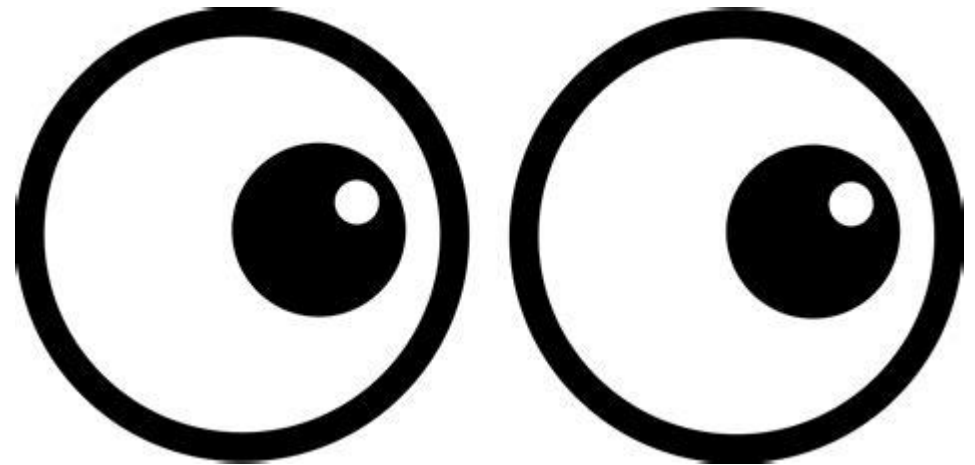
Before 3 witnesses

God - the Father

Jesus – the Messiah – appointed to rule

The elect angels – ministering spirits

They see what is happening



I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels,
to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of
favouritism.

Keep these (suggestions?)

No poor treatment for those not
so nice?

James 2:1 discrimination against
the poor



I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, **and to do nothing out of favouritism.**

No special treatment for 'friends'

They may have friends – but no extra favours



More personal details

Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands,

Appointment to offices – (not a badge alone – a service)

Think – pray- consider- then decide

Rash decisions – pay for later.



and do not share in the sins of others.

The company you keep?

Conscience helps us in dubious things

Why not?

It's wrong,

It will damage your credibility and ability to lead

It will cause damage/discourage good

Encourage the bad

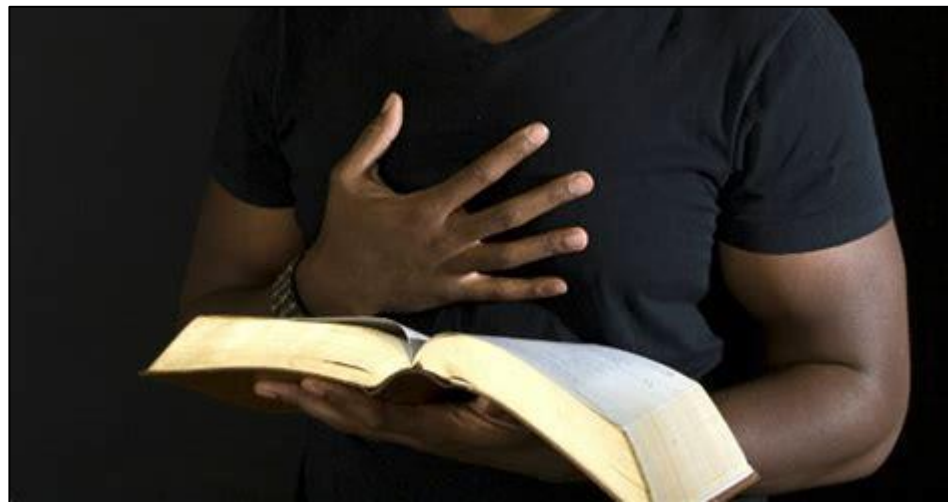


Keep yourself pure.

Watch your own life while busy about others

How?

Personal spiritual life – bible, prayer,
worship, service



Why had he not been drinking wine?

Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.

Contaminated water?



Fermented wine safer to drink
A **Little** – this is not a
recommendation to drunkenness



Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine **because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.**

He appears to have had a delicate constitution.

Often not well. Do you think he had been prayed for?
Healing issues?



Here is a practical help
– a form of medical treatment



The sins of some men are obvious,
reaching the place of judgment ahead of them;

Who is he thinking of? - It is in the context of appointing leaders. Qualifications are given in earlier part of letter.

We see the consequences quickly in this world before facing God's judgement.



the sins of others trail behind them.

Who are in this group?

Give it time to see ? Not to be hasty!

Quiet sinners- think they get away with sin?

But their time will come - it may trail behind but it will eventually reach them.



In the same way, good deeds are obvious,

Comparison with the way good operates

Some things you see - but not for show
cf left hand and right

Let your light shine -> glorify God



In the same way, good deeds are obvious,
and even those that are not cannot be hidden.

Quiet good – hidden from human eyes
Maybe even their own – cf. Matthew 25
But not the Lord's



In the church, the conduct of the leaders is important
(as is that of each member of the body).

That was why Paul wrote to Timothy.
Prayer and support needed.

