

Study 1

Read Titus 1:1-8

I. Greeting (1-4)

Discussion Questions

- How does Paul introduce himself?
- What can you learn from his introduction?
- Why was Paul serving?
- What elements can you see in Paul's life vision here?
- What promise might Paul be referencing in verse 2?
- When and how was this promise manifest?
- Explain how the concept of being "entrusted" with preaching is important.
- What relationship do we see between Paul and Titus?

Application – What has God entrusted to you? How does understanding you have been entrusted with a task affect your attitude toward that task?

Application – God does not call us to be lone rangers in His service. Rather, we are to be part of a team that loves and cares for one another while serving together. Are you part of a team like that? Do you care for others like that?

II. Qualifications for Elders (5-9)

Discussion Questions

- What mission was Titus given?
- Where is Crete?

- What do you observe about the importance of elders?
- What are the benefits of an eldership structure to church governance?
- What other passages teach about the importance of elders?
- Is any other authority structure mentioned in the Bible?
- Are any other authority structures (such as congregational or single head pastor) acceptable? Why or why not?
- What do you observe about the qualifications for elders?
- Why are these qualifications important?
- Taken together, do these mean that an elder must be perfect?
- Do you think this is an exhaustive list of requirements? Why or why not?
- What does it mean to be above reproach?
- What does it mean to be the “husband of one wife?” Must an elder be married?
- If a man has an adult child who turns away from the Lord, is he disqualified from being an elder (6)?
- What is the job of an elder (7)?
- What does an arrogant person look like?
- Why is hospitality important for an elder?

- How does this passage apply to someone who is not (and may never be) an elder?

Application – What has God put under your care? What is your role as a steward in this area? Every believer is a steward in some way. Parents are entrusted with raising up their children to serve the Lord. A teacher is entrusted with the good education of her students. A homeowner (or renter) should use their home to serve the Lord by being hospitable. Maybe you own little, but the money you have should be used in a wise manner that pleases God.

Application – How can you apply today's passage? Most of us will never be elders, but this passage is still very applicable. Firstly, it is important that we understand what God expects of godly leaders and encourage our own churches to respect these standards.

Secondly, we see that this is God's ideal for each person. We should all strive to live up to these standards. Choose one area discussed today you think you are weak in and write down how you think God would like you to improve in this area this week.