



To Timothy: An Aside
1 Timothy 5:21-25
May 30, 2021
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this sermon we are given important truths about ministry and ministers in the local church.

The Text: 1 Timothy 5:21-25

²¹ In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality. ²² Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure. ²³ (No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.) ²⁴ The sins of some people are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later. ²⁵ So also good works are conspicuous, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.

Paul's exhortation to Timothy teaches us three important truths about local church ministry.

(1) The church's ministry is sacred and of the utmost importance (v. 21).

(2) The church's ministry must confront sin and yet not be contaminated by it (vv. 22-23).

(3) The church's ministry requires discernment and hope when dealing with a variety of souls (vv. 24-25).

Response

By including us in a pastoral conversation, this text gives us insight into the divine mystery of church ministry.

Sunday Text Questions for 1 Timothy 5:21-25 (“Entrusted to You” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: What first comes to mind when you think about the local church?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) How does Paul’s opening statement, “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels” (v. 21), magnify the importance of the ministry of the local church?
- 4) To what or whom does the phrase “elect angels” refer?
- 5) Read 1 Peter 1:10-12. Why would the entire heavenly realm be watching what God is doing through Christ (and his church) in the world, and what does that mean for how we should think about and treat the church?
- 6) V. 22 is warning the church not to move someone into leadership too quickly. Why might Paul be giving the church this warning?
- 7) How does v. 23 give us insight into the importance of caring for our bodies even and maybe especially as we care for people’s souls?
- 8) Vv. 24-25 might be hard to understand. How do these verses teach us that wisdom is needed as we work with people in various situations, some of which can be very difficult?
- 9) How do vv. 24-25 also direct us to place our hope in God as the primary minister?
- 10) What do these verses suggest about the relationship between Paul and Timothy, and how do they encourage you to be in close and even mentoring relationships with others?

Further study this week: Passages on the church: Matthew 16:18 (Mon); Ephesians 2:19-22 (Tues); 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 – the “you’s” are plural! (Wed); 1 Peter 2:5, 9-10 (Thurs); Ephesians 3:7-12 (Fri).