

THE BOOK OF 1 TIMOTHY

“The Deacon’s Qualifications”
(1 Timothy 3:8–13)

“The Deacon’s Qualifications”



- Introduction / Greeting (1:1-7)
 - ▶ Jesus Christ OUR Hope (1:1,2)
 - ▶ The value & necessary commitment to the doctrine of Christ (1:3-7)
- The Lawful Use of the Law (1:5-11)
- Paul : A Pattern (1:12-17)
 - ▶ If Paul can be saved ANYONE can be saved!
- Fight the good fight (1:18-20)
- Pray for leaders (2:1-7)
- Behavior of men & women in the church (2:8-15)

“The Deacon’s Qualifications”



- Chapter 3 deals primarily with the qualifications of elders, (3:1-7) and deacons, (3:8-14).
- Our study tonight will focus on the qualifications of deacons (servants)
- These are both absolute & relative.
 - ▶ **Absolute** - One either has them or he does not (husband, father ...)
 - ▶ **Relative** - possessed in varying degrees, (hospitable, teacher, etc.)
 - ▶ All qualifications **MUST** be possessed to the degree of proficiency or in an appreciable measure.

1 Timothy 3:8–13 (NKJV)

⁸ Likewise deacons *must be* reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, ⁹ holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. ¹⁰ But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being *found* blameless. ¹¹ Likewise, *their* wives *must be* reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling *their* children and their own houses well. ¹³ For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

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What Is A Deacon?

- DIAKONOS: primarily denotes a servant, one who executes the commands of another, a servant, attendant, minister. (Thayer)
- This word has a common, nonofficial usage in the NT — used for Civil Government (Romans 13:4); Evangelists (1 Cor. 3:5; 6:4; Eph. 3:7; 1 Tim. 4:6); and various servants of the Churches (Eph. 6:21; Romans 16:1)
- The translators of the New Testament realized that this also word has a technical sense in referring to a specific work or office, and translated “diakonos” with the English word “Deacon” (Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:8, 10, 12)

“The Deacon’s Qualifications”

What Is A Deacon?

The Books of

1-2 Timothy, Titus, & Philemon

Paul’s Epistles

Truth
Commentaries

By Marshall
Patton

“Obviously, it is used in a twofold sense: general and specific. In the general sense it is used with reference to all Christians, the context determining the nature of the service rendered. In the specific sense it refers to a special class of servants with certain qualifications, who are appointed to work under the direction of the elders. In the KJV and the ASV, ...”

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“... when the translators judge the word to be used in the latter sense, the English word deacon is called into play, otherwise the words “servant” or “minister” are used. One possible exception is in the sixth chapter of Acts. Here a special class with certain qualifications was appointed to serve in material matters, all of which implies that they were deacons, though not designated as such. Thus, in our text we have official servants designated as deacons (cf. Phil. 1:1).”

“The Deacon’s Qualifications”

1 Timothy 3:8–9
(NKJV)

⁸ Likewise deacons *must be* reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, ⁹ holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.

Deacons Must Be:

- **“LIKEWISE”** : Just so, in the same way. As Elders must be qualified men, “in like manner”, the Deacons must be qualified in all respects mentioned. (*This term does not mean deacons must meet all the qualifications given for the elder*).
- **“REVERENT”** : (*grave, KJV; dignified, ESV; men of dignity, NASB; worthy of respect, NIV*) a deacon must be dependable, trustworthy, serious, and one who with proper dignity inspires respect.

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1 Timothy 3:8–9
(NKJV)

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Deacons Must Be:

- **“Not double-tongued”** : “mē, ‘Not, by no means, never at any time,’ dilogous, ‘double in speech, saying one thing with one person, another with another (w/ intent to deceive).”
- **“Not given to much wine”** : Literally, “not to be addicted to much wine (oinos) — According to Liddell and Scott’s Lexicon, the term “oinos” was a generic term referring to “various kinds of drinks or confections of other succulent fruits, such as the date and lotus fruit.” ... (cf. John 2:9,10)

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(NKJV)

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Deacons Must Be:

- **“Not given to much wine”** : (cont.) Also, wine in ancient times was light wine (that is, not fortified with extra alcohol), and watered down [3 parts water, one part oinos]. Concentrated alcohol was only known in the Middle Ages when the Arabs invented distillation (“alcohol” is an Arabic word); the twenty percent fortified wines were unknown in Biblical times.
- The prohibition against being addicted to “much” does NOT allow one to be addicted to a little!

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Deacons Must Be:

- **“Not greedy for money”** : Not eager for base gain, fond of dishonest gain, or greedy for money. Deacons will probably at times have access to church funds, distributing money, reporting expenses for reimbursement and so on.
- **“Holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience”** : The object to be held fast or kept is the faith, (just as elders, Titus 1:9). They must practice what they teach, being men of conviction, thus the clear conscience.

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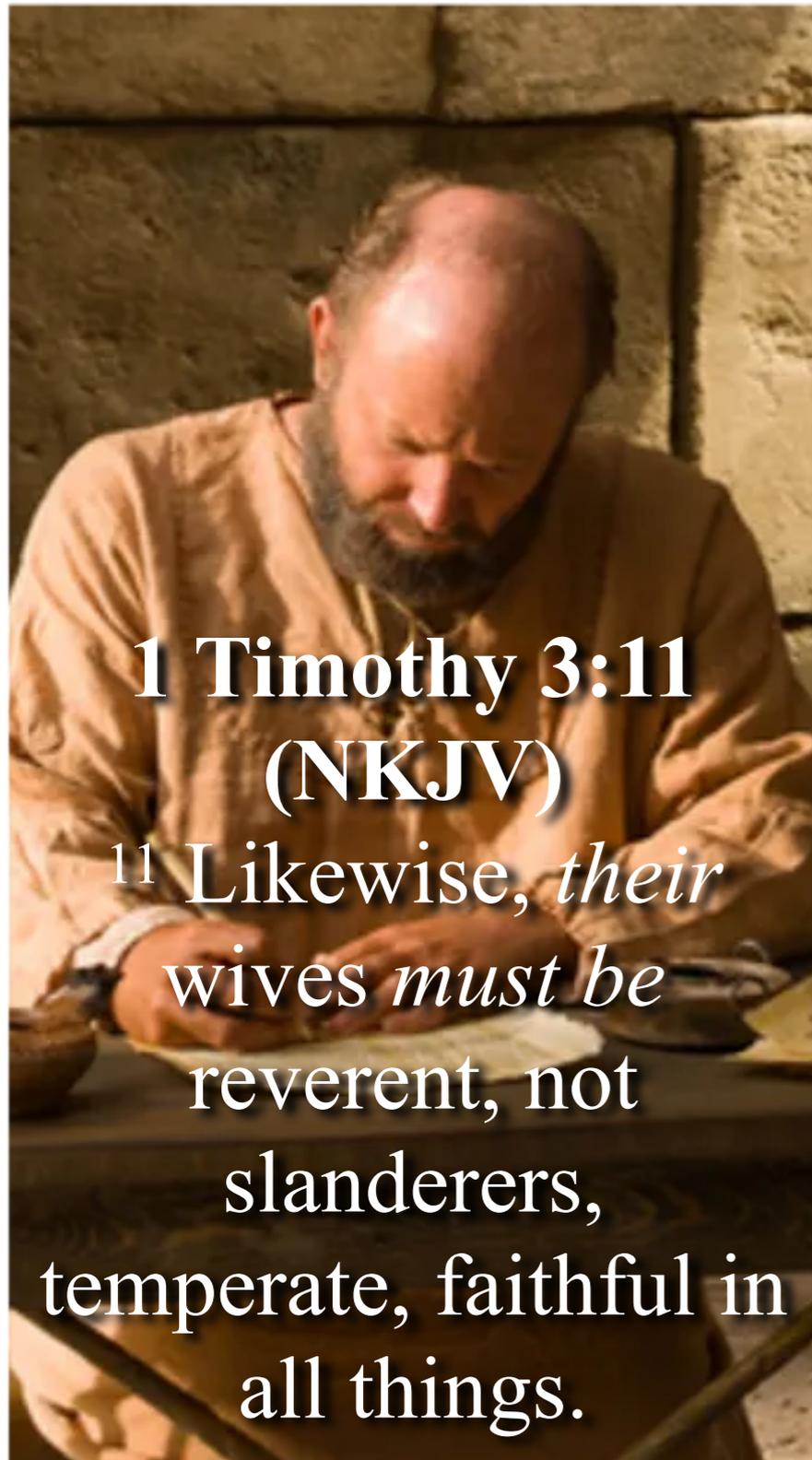
1 Timothy 3:10
(NKJV)

10 But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being *found* blameless.

Deacons Must Be:

- **“Let these also first be tested”** : This testing must be done before their appointment, as clearly indicated by the word first (prōton).
- **“Then let them serve as deacons”** : The term “serve” reminds us that the work, (office) of a deacon is service, (cf with Acts 6:3).
- **“Being found blameless”** : That is, cannot be called to account, unproveable, unaccused, with nothing laid to one's charge, (cf. 3:2)

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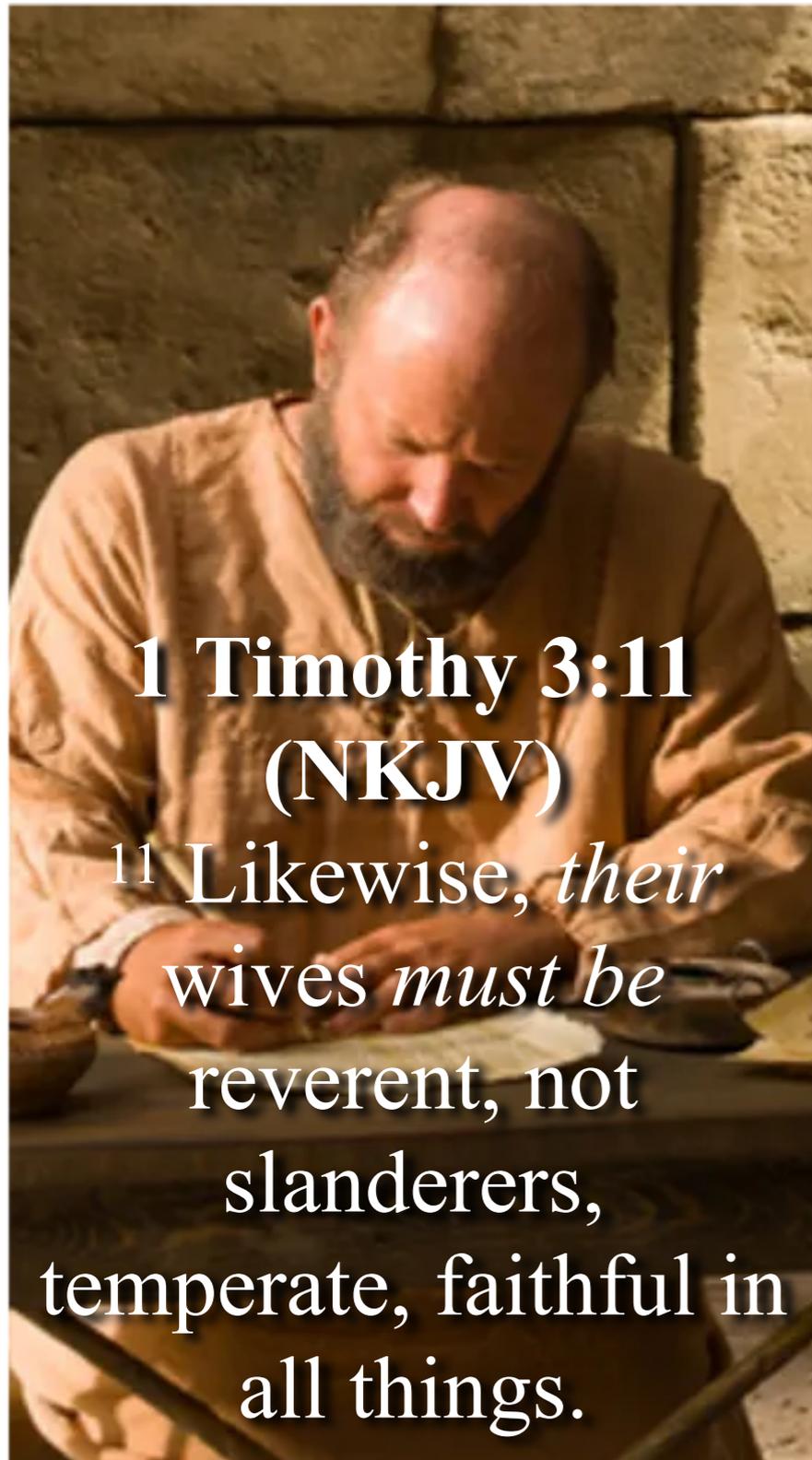
1 Timothy 3:11
(NKJV)

¹¹ Likewise, *their wives must be* reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.

Deacons Must Be:

- **“Likewise, their wives must be”** : The women under consideration are not female deacons, but rather the wives of the deacons.
- **“Reverent”** or dignified”: Their wives should share their serious outlook (vs.8)
- **“Not slanderers”** : The spouse of the deacon must also be trustworthy and able to control her tongue. She must not engage in malicious gossip - or is hypercritical, one who is bent on finding fault with others.

“The Deacon’s Qualifications”



1 Timothy 3:11
(NKJV)

11 Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.

Deacons Must Be:

- **“Temperate”** : Clear-headed, self-controlled, circumspect, like her husband, must be sober minded.
- **“Faithful in all things”** : “Trustworthy in every respect” (Arndt p. 664); Faithful in keeping secrets, faithful in keeping appointments, faithful to her husband, her children, and faithful to God.
- God requires the wife of an elder or deacon has a very valuable role. Her character can increase his effectiveness, or she can make him ineffective. (Prov. 31:23)

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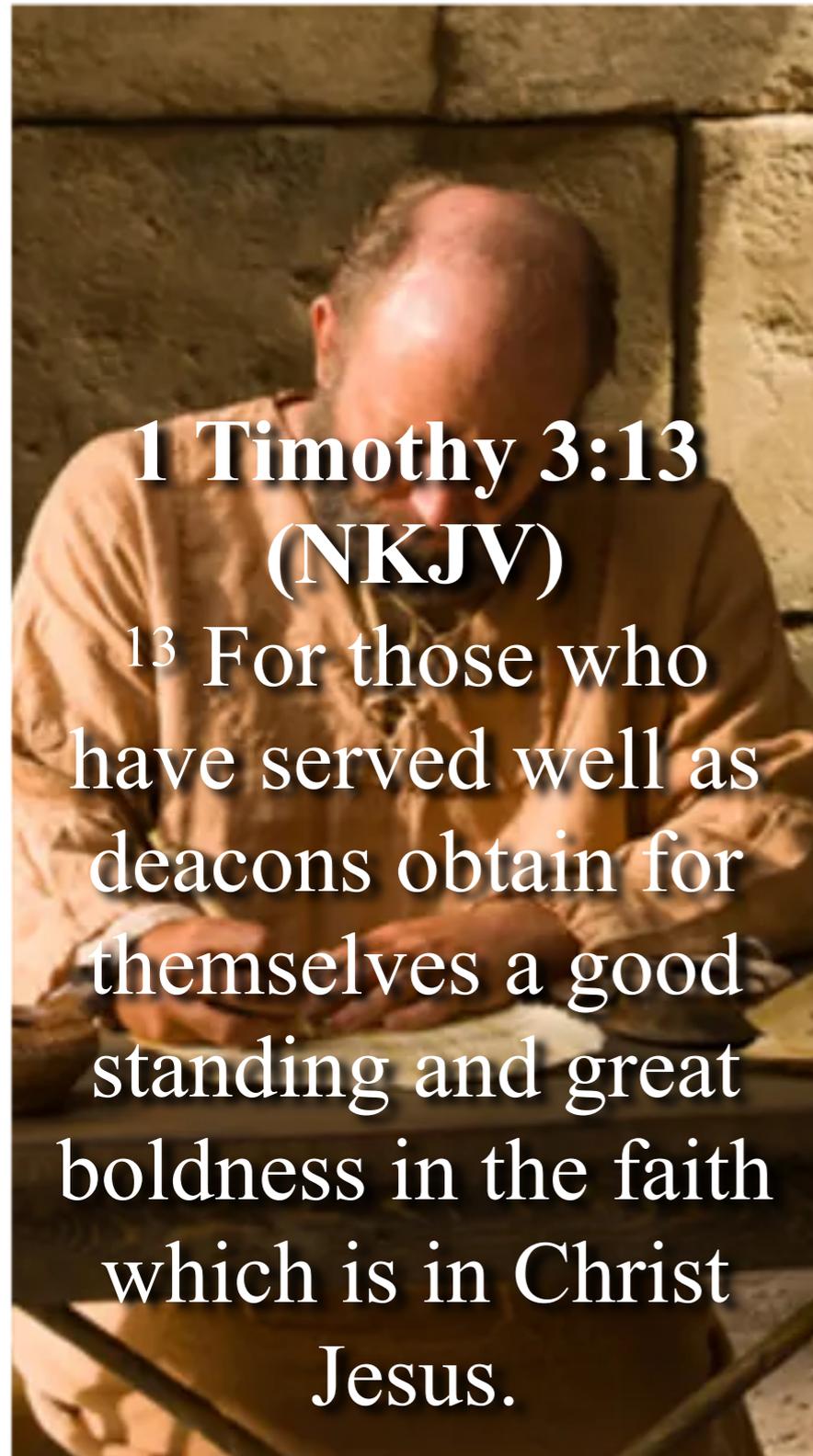
1 Timothy 3:12
(NKJV)

12 Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling *their* children and their own houses well.

Deacons Must Be:

- **“Let deacons be the husbands of one wife”** : a single man cannot be appointed as a deacon, he does NOT qualify. (How could a woman qualify to be a deacon? - She can't!)
- **“Ruling their children and their own houses well”** : This is a man who is truly implementing the instructions found in Ephesians 6:4. The distributive usage allows for the singular, (See Eph. 6:4). — (a difference from elders: deacons are not required to have “children that believe” (Titus 1:6, ASV)).

“The Deacon’s Qualifications”



1 Timothy 3:13
(NKJV)

13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Deacons Must Be:

- **“For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing”** : Rewards, personal and spiritual growth await the man who will answer the call.
- **“and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.”** : The deacon who thus serves will not only gain for himself honor and esteem, but also confidence and courage in whatever service he may render, which service of course, is within the realm of the faith which is in Christ Jesus.ASV)).

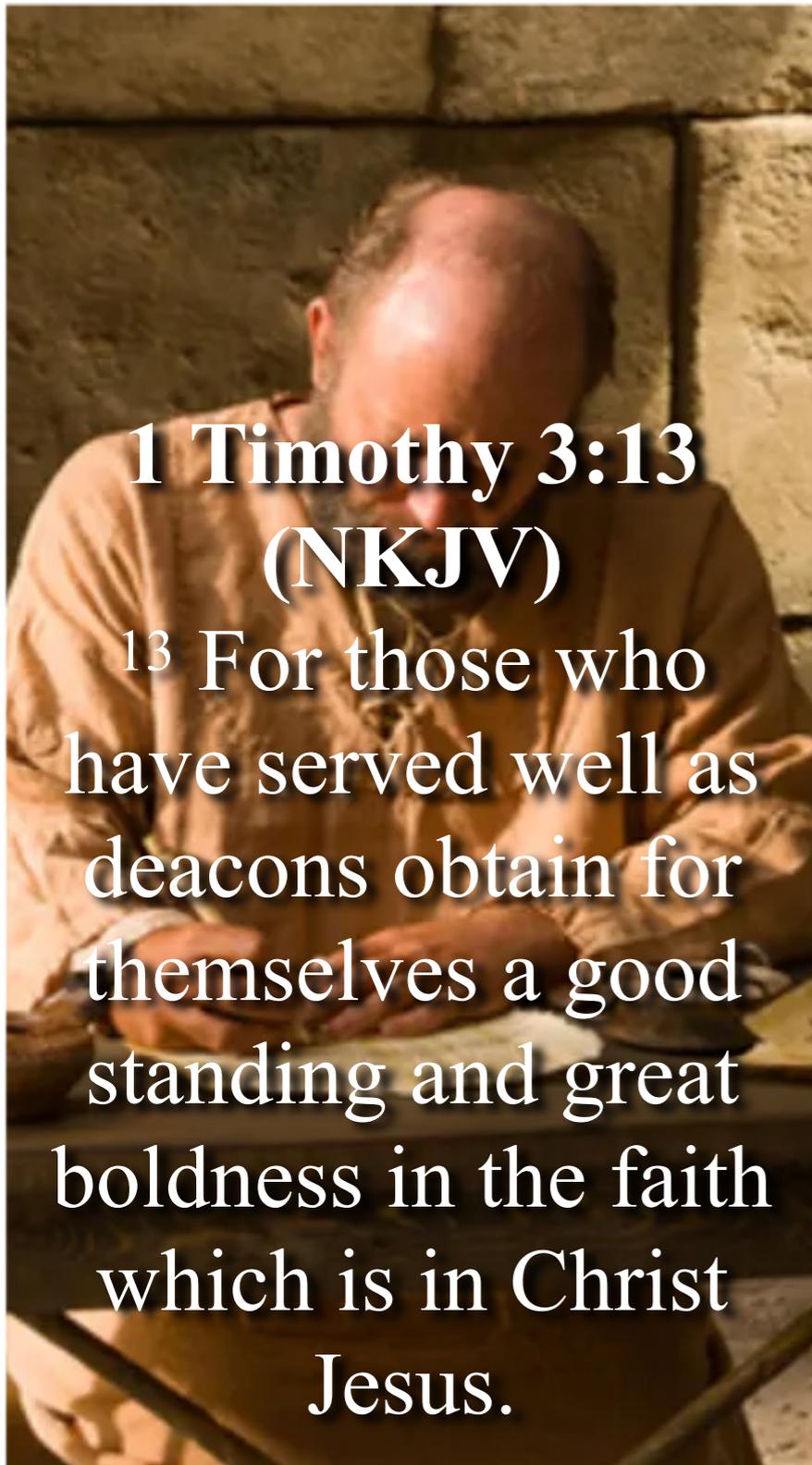
“The Deacon’s Qualifications”



A Deacon Must Be

- A Reverent Man
- An Honest Man
- A Sober Man
- A Faithful Man
- A Proven Man
- A Man w/ Faithful wife
- A Family Man

“The Deacon’s Qualifications”



**1 Timothy 3:13
(NKJV)**

¹³ For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

- The church of today & tomorrow NEEDS godly servants!
- ▶ Accepting and serving as a deacon can help develop and prepare a man to be an elder.
- ▶ We should consider it a blessing and honor to be able to serve the church and provide for its needs.
- ▶ Christians should seek to fill whatever role and work they can become qualified to fill — after all, what did Jesus do for us?

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Acts 6:2–7 (NKJV)

² Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. ³ Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; ⁴ but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” ⁵ And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, ⁶ whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. ⁷ Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.