

Recap of 7/15/18 (1 Timothy 5:17-20)

1. 1 Timothy 5:17-25 represents first century “principles and practices” concerning the ministry of Elders. Paul deals with remuneration for Elders, the proper handling of accusations against Elders, the need to act without favoritism or prejudice, and last of all practical guidelines for Elder selection.
2. In verse 17, Paul’s says Elders who excelled at leadership and who preached and taught in addition to giving oversight to the church were worthy of double honor. Honor not only meant respect but also financial compensation. Greek scholar, A.T. Robertson says of the word honor that it was commonly used of price or pay.
3. Paul makes his intent clear in in verse 18 by citing as Scriptural evidence, Deuteronomy 25:4 (“do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain”) coupled with Luke 10:7 (“the worker deserves his wages”). Paul expands on Deuteronomy 25:4 in 1 Corinthians 9:2-14 where he concludes: “In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.”
4. While on one hand Elders are not to be “lovers of money” (1 Timothy 3:3) and “not greedy for money” (1 Peter 5:2), on the other hand full-time workers are to be adequately supported financially by the church.
5. The One Year NLT Study Bible suggests “If you can support another believer who is gifted and skilled for ministry, rejoice in that opportunity. And if God calls you to full-time service humbly accept support from other believers.”
5. In verses 19 and 20, Paul deals with how to handle accusations against Elders. He cites the Old Testament principle of Deuteronomy 19:15, two or three witnesses were required to establish the accusation. This would eliminate rumors and gossip as basis for accusation. Elders who were guilty were to be reprimanded publicly, either before the Elders or before the church to serve as a warning to others not to take sin lightly.