

“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

First Timothy Bible Study — I Timothy 5:17-21 Lesson #11

**INSTRUCTIONS: Read the entire section of Scripture in First Timothy before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God’s word. Most Scriptures used are from the New King James Version.

17-18 Let the **ELDERS who RULE WELL be counted WORTHY of double HONOR**, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, “**You shall not MUZZLE an OX while it TREADS out the GRAIN,**” and, “The LABORER is worthy of his WAGES.”

•Galatians 6:6 “Let him who is _____ the _____ in all _____ things with _____ who _____.”

•I Corinthians 9:7-14 “Who ever goes to war at _____ own _____? Who plants a vineyard and does not _____ of its _____? Or who tends a flock and does not drink the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is _____ in the _____ of _____, ‘You shall not _____ an _____ while it _____ out the grain.’ Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does _____ it altogether for _____ sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown _____ things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your _____ things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ. Do you not know that those who _____ the _____ things _____ of the _____ of the _____, and those who serve at the altar _____ of the _____ of the altar? Even so the Lord has _____ that those who _____ the _____ should _____ from the gospel.”

•Luke 8:1-3 “Now it came to pass afterward, that He (Jesus) went through every city and village, _____ and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the Twelve were with Him, and certain _____ who had been healed of evil spirits and Infirmities (sicknesses) – Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward, and Susanna, and _____ others who _____ for _____ from their substance (out of their own finances).”

Definition: “The ELDERS who RULE WELL be counted WORTHY of double HONOR” – This means that preachers, ministers, evangelists, missionaries, and pastors of churches **should NOT be required to go out and get a job to support themselves, but that their CONGREGATIONS should GIVE TITHES and OFFERINGS to support them.** There are some cases where a congregation is too small, or in a poor neighborhood, and they can’t fully support their pastor and his family, and that pastor may get a job on the side, but that is not God’s plan. **God’s plan is that PASTORS be FULL-TIME in the MINISTRY, and that is what is written in I Corinthians 9:7-14, “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should LIVE from the gospel.”** Paul shows the Corinthians that God did this in the Old Testament times, also, when he wrote, **“Do you not know that those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar?”** The priests and Levites in the Hebrew tabernacle and later in the temple would eat the meat left over after the animals were given as sacrifices to the Lord. When the Israelites brought their “firstfruits” offerings of what they had grown, the priests and Levites (workers in the temple) would also eat the

grain, fruits, vegetables, olive oil, and “new wine” (non-alcoholic - it hadn’t had a chance to ferment yet) that were brought to the Lord’s house. God provided for his priests in the Old Testament law by having them receive their material needs from the people. Today, we are not under the law of Moses, but **the same principle of giving applies:** in the New Testament church, pastors and missionaries **who are being faithful shepherds of the flock, and faithfully TEACHING and PREACHING God’s WORD** are to be supported by the congregation and by individual Believers through their tithes and offerings.

•**Leviticus 2:8-10** “You shall bring the _____ offering that is made of these things to the Lord. And when it is presented to the _____, he shall bring it to the altar. Then the priest shall take from the grain offering a _____, and _____ it on the _____. It is an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the Lord. And what is _____ of the _____ offering shall be _____ and his _____. It is a most holy offering of the offerings to the Lord made by fire.”

•**Numbers 18:5-13** “And you shall _____ to the _____ of the sanctuary and the _____ of the _____, that there may be no more wrath on the children of Israel. Behold, I Myself have taken your brethren the _____ from among the children of Israel; they are a gift to you, given by the Lord, to _____ the _____ of the tabernacle of meeting. Therefore you and your sons with you shall _____ to your priesthood for everything at the _____ and behind the veil; and you shall _____. I give your priesthood to you as a gift for service, but the outsider who comes near shall be put to death. And the _____ spoke to _____: ‘Here, I Myself have also given you charge of My heave offerings, all the holy gifts of the children of Israel; I have _____ them as a _____ to you and your _____, as an ordinance forever. This shall be yours of the most holy things reserved from the fire: every offering of theirs, every grain offering and every sin offering and every trespass offering which they render to Me, shall be most holy for you and your sons. In a most holy place _____ shall _____ it; every male shall eat it. It shall be holy to you. This also is _____: the heave offering of their gift, with all the wave offerings of the children of Israel; I have _____ them to you, and your _____ and _____ with you, as an ordinance forever. Everyone who is clean in your house may eat it. All the best of the _____, all the best of the new _____ and the _____, their firstfruits which they offer to the Lord, I have _____ them to _____. Whatever first ripe _____ is in their land, which they bring to the Lord, shall be yours. Everyone who is clean in your house may _____ it.’”

Definition: “You shall not MUZZLE an OX while it TREADS out the GRAIN” – In Bible times and the “olden days” before farming machinery, oxen were used to harvest the wheat and other grains, and they would strap the ox to a wheel, and he would go around and around, stomping on the grain to separate the wheat from the parts that were not edible. Some poorer countries even still do that nowadays. **God gave the Israelites a commandment to allow the oxen to eat some of the grain themselves, as it was cruel to have them doing all the work without getting to eat some of it, too.** So, they were not supposed to “muzzle” the ox, which means put something over his mouth so that he could not eat. Paul tells us in I Corinthians 9:7-14, that God did not just say this about not treating animals cruelly, but also about humans, especially in regards to pastors and Bible teachers being supported by the church.

19-21 **Do not receive an ACCUSATION against an ELDER** except from **TWO or THREE WITNESSES**. Those **who are SINNING REBUKE** in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear. I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you

observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.

• **Peter 5:1** "The _____ who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow _____ and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed."

• **Acts 15:4** "And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the _____ and the _____ and the _____; and they reported all things that God had done with them."

• **James 5:14** "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the _____ of the _____, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord."

Definition: "An ACCUSATION against an ELDER " - "Elder" in the New Testament usually means pastor, also called a "bishop", but in this context, it means ANY of the older leaders in the church. Peter was not only one of the original apostles of Jesus, but also an elder in the church. The average member of a church is not supposed to make any kind of accusation against one of the elders, unless there are at least two or three others who can confirm what is said.

• **Acts 11 30** "This they also did, and sent it to the _____ by the hands of Barnabas and Saul."

• **Titus 1:5-9** "For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint _____ in every city as I commanded you - if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. For a _____ must be _____, as a steward of God, _____ self-willed, _____ quick-tempered, _____ given to wine, _____ violent, _____ greedy for money, but hospitable, a _____ of what is _____, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful _____ as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to _____ and convict those who contradict."

Definition: "TWO or THREE WITNESSES" - God gave the commandment that **a person should not be convicted of any crime or sin just on the basis of what ONE persons says**, because He knew that some people will lie just to get someone else in trouble. If two or three witnesses can all come to agreement about a matter, then the chances are better that it is true. In the case of Jesus, the Pharisees and Jewish leaders managed to get two FALSE witnesses, but Mark tells us that even then their testimonies did not agree with each other.

• **Mark 14:55-59** "And the chief priests and all the council sought _____ against Jesus to put Him to death, and found none. For many bore false _____ against Him, but their _____ did not _____. And some rose up and bore _____ against Him, saying, 'We heard Him say, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.'" But _____ even then did their _____ agree."

• **Matthew 18:15-16** "Moreover if your _____ against you, go and tell him his fault between _____ and _____ alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will _____ hear you, take with you _____ or _____ more, that 'by the _____ or _____ or _____ witnesses every word may be established.'"

• **Deuteronomy 17:6** "Whoever is worthy of death shall be put to death on the _____ of _____ or _____ witnesses, but he shall not be put to death on the testimony of _____ witness."

• **Deuteronomy 19:15** "One witness shall _____ rise against a man concerning any

_____ or any _____ that he commits; by the _____ of _____ or _____ witnesses the matter shall be _____.”

Definition: "Those who are SINNING REBUKE in the PRESENCE of ALL" – So, what is the church congregation supposed to do if an elder, or ANY member of the church has been found to be committing a SIN of some kind? Once it has been confirmed by two or three witnesses, that person is to be **REBUKED in front of the entire congregation**. This is not meant to just shame the person who has committed the sin, but also to be a WARNING to others NOT to get involved in sin themselves. To REBUKE means to hold someone ACCOUNTABLE, to reprimand, scold or blame them for something they have done wrong.

•**Galatians 2:11-12** “But when Peter had come to Antioch, I _____ him to his _____, because he was to be _____; for before certain men came from James, he would _____ with the _____; but when they came, he withdrew and _____ himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision.”

Definition: "I WITHSTOOD HIM to his face" – Paul **CONFRONTED Peter about his change of attitude** towards the Gentile believers (“Gentile” means from a non-Jewish background). Before these certain Jewish believers came to town (supposedly from James, the head of the church in Jerusalem), **Peter had been EATING and HAVING FELLOWSHIP freely with ALL Christian believers, whether Jew or Gentile**. All of a sudden, Peter started acting like the Gentiles were not good enough for him to eat with, and this all went back to the Jewish traditions of not eating with anyone who was not Jewish. It says Peter “**withdrew and SEPARATED HIMSELF, FEARING those who were of the circumcision.**” Peter did what he did out of **the fear of man**, being afraid of what people would think of him! This is always the WRONG motive for doing things, as we should only be concerned with what God thinks of us.

•**Proverbs 29:25** “The _____ of _____ brings a snare (trap, problems), but whoever _____ in the _____ shall be safe.”

Definition: "Observe these things without PREJUDICE, doing nothing with PARTIALITY" – **Partiality means preferring one person over another**, especially for worldly reasons. PREJUDICE means to PRE-JUDGE someone, or in other words, **to make up your mind about someone before you even know that person or know anything about the situation**. God does not do this, and we should not either. In the King James Version, it is called “respect of persons”, and it means to judge someone by their outward appearance, and **PREFER one type of person over another** for the wrong reasons; an unfair prejudice or bias. In the book of James, he was addressing the problem of rich and poor people in the church. He was telling the Christians not to prefer or like someone better just because they were rich and dressed in fancy clothes, or to neglect or treat someone unfairly just because they were poor and wearing raggedy clothes.

•**Romans 2:11** “For there is no _____ with God.”

•**Deuteronomy 1:17** “You shall show no _____ in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the _____; you shall not be _____ in any man’s presence, for the judgment is God’s.....”

•**Proverbs 28:21** “To show _____ is _____, because for a piece of bread a man will transgress (sin).”

•**Colossians 3:25** “But he who does _____ will be repaid for the wrong which he has done, for there is no _____.”

•**I Peter 1:17** “And if you call on the Father, who without _____ judges _____ to each one’s _____.”