Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – April 14, 2019

**Nurturing God’s Family**

**Planting, Establishing, and Leading Local Churches**

Practical Principles from The Pastoral Letters

**“Honor and Accountability”**

**1 Timothy 5:17–6:2**

Timothy was a younger, less experienced man-asked to do a big job, namely, to set things right in an established church. So Paul helps him by giving some general instructions about the danger of false teachers, the gospel message, and the qualifications of leaders.

But there is more. Timothy must understand his mission, and proceed carefully, since many, or even most, of the assembly were older than he, and the leaders likely well established. He must maintain that respect, but also say some hard things, at times quite a balancing act.

**What are Paul’s key points?**

✓ Worthy elders are worthy of honor. 5:17, 18

That may include remuneration.

✓ Sinning elders must be held accountable. 5:19-21

That may include objective, public rebuke.

✓ Elders must be carefully chosen and appointed. 5:22-25

That takes time and caution. Do right; stay healthy!

✓ Faith must impact the marketplace. 6:1, 2

That means employees and employers have mutual respect.

***What is the Big Idea?***

*A church is established as its leaders are*

*chosen carefully, treated honorably, and held accountable,*

*and as its members’ faith is reflected in their work relationships.*

***How do we apply these principles?***

***1. Saints and Sinners*** Humans tend either to worship their leaders or demonize them. Paul calls for leaders to be both honored and held accountable, but that requires a ruthless objectivity which is often cast aside under pressure or intimidation. Why is it so difficult for people to be objective about leaders? How do these guidelines dovetail with elder qualifications listed in 3:1-6? What might tempt a church just to cover up the sin of its leaders? What happens when it does? What does it imply that some sins appear quickly, others over time? Why does choosing leaders take time?

***2. Honor and Double Honor***  What does “double honor” imply? How does Paul use the Old Testament quotations in v. 18? Some have suggested that to support a pastor (elder) monetarily is wrong because it places him above the people as privileged. How would you answer them? Why are some elders “paid” and other not? How can this privilege be abused? 1 Peter 5:1-5

***3. Slaves and Masters*** As we study the book of Philemon, along with the rest of the New Testament, it is clear that the kind of slavery referenced is quite different from that of the USA in pre-Civil War days. How would you paraphrase Paul’s message to slaves? How does that principle apply to employees today? Why is there an implied message to masters as well? How would you paraphrase it for today? Why the reminder that our faith must extend to the marketplace? Col. 3:22–4:1