

“MAN WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR”

I TIMOTHY 3:17-25

INTRODUCTION

THERE WERE THREE ITEMS PUT IN THE ARK OF THE COVENANT: THE TABLETS OF THE LAW, A JAR OF MANNA, AND AARON'S STAFF THAT HAD BUDDED.

WHY THESE THREE ITEMS? WHY NOT OTHER ITEMS LIKE JOSEPH'S COAT OR ABRAHAM'S BONES OR EGYPT'S BRICKS?

THERE WAS A REASON FOR EACH ITEM IN THE ARK. GOD SELECTED THE ITEMS THAT WERE MOST IMPORTANT TO HIM AND TO THE LIFE OF HIS PEOPLE.

- 1. THE TABLETS OF THE LAW REMINDED THE PEOPLE OF THE COVENANT AND THE DEMAND FOR OBEDIENCE.**
- 2. THE JAR OF MANNA REMINDED THE PEOPLE OF THE LORD'S PROVISION AND THAT THEY SHOULD ALWAYS TRUST HIM.**
- 3. AARON'S STAFF REMINDED THE PEOPLE THAT GOD APPOINTS AND EQUIPS THE LEADERS OF HIS PEOPLE SO THESE LEADERS ARE TO BE HONORED AND HELD IN THE HIGHEST REGARD.**

AS PAUL PUTS IT IN OUR TEXT, [1 TIM 5:17] THE ELDERS WHO DIRECT THE AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH WELL ARE WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHOSE WORK IS PREACHING AND TEACHING.

LET US LOOK AT THIS DEACON WHO IS BEING HONORED HERE TODAY BY THIS DEDICATION

I. HE WAS WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR.**A. PAUL SAYS THE ELDERS ARE "WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR."**

- 1. PAUL MENTIONS THE ELDERS. BUT THIS DOES NOT EXCLUDE THE DEACONS.**
- 2. DEACONS AND ELDERS AND PASTORS ARE ALL WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR.**
- 3. I AM SURE YOU REALIZE THIS DEMAND TO HONOR THOSE IN OFFICE RUNS COUNTER TO WHAT WE SEE IN OUR CULTURE.**
 - a. OUR CULTURE DOES NOT ESTEEM ANY FORM OF AUTHORITY.**
 - b. WHAT IS ESTEEMED ARE THOSE WHO QUESTION AUTHORITY.**
- 4. TAKE A LOOK AT THE POLITICAL CARTOONS IN THE NEWSPAPER; OUR PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOR ARE NOT ESTEEMED AND HONORED – RATHER, THEY ARE MOCKED AND REVILED TO THE POINT YOU WONDER WHY ANYONE WOULD EVER WANT THEIR POSITION.**
- 5. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THE SAME SORT OF ATTITUDE CREEPS INTO THE CHURCH.**
 - a. MORE THAN ONCE, I HAVE SEEN AND HEARD MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH QUESTION AND MOCK THOSE IN OFFICE RATHER THAN GIVE THEM HONOR.**
 - b. HERE IS ANOTHER INSTANCE OF CULTURE IMPACTING THE CHURCH RATHER THAN THE CHURCH IMPACTING CULTURE.**

**B. THOSE WHO ARE IN CHURCH OFFICE ARE
"WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR." WHY?**

1. **BECAUSE IT IS GOD WHO HAS APPOINTED THE ELDERS AND DEACONS.**
2. **HE GIVES THEM THEIR OFFICE, HE GIVES THEM THEIR AUTHORITY, HE GIVES THEM THEIR DUTIES, HE GIVES THEM THE GRACE AND STRENGTH AND WISDOM THEY NEED TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF THEIR OFFICES.**
3. **GOD HAS ESTABLISHED THE AUTHORITY STRUCTURE OF THE CHURCH JUST LIKE HE HAS ESTABLISHED THE AUTHORITY STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY.**
4. **TAKE NOTE OF WHAT PAUL WROTE TO THE CHRISTIANS OF ROME:**
 - a. ***[ROM 13:1], "EVERYONE MUST SUBMIT HIMSELF TO THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES, FOR THERE IS NO AUTHORITY EXCEPT THAT WHICH GOD HAS ESTABLISHED. THE AUTHORITIES THAT EXIST HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY GOD".***
5. **DID YOU CATCH THAT? "THERE IS NO AUTHORITY EXCEPT THAT WHICH GOD HAS ESTABLISHED."**
6. **THIS IS TRUE FOR SOCIETY. THIS IS TRUE FOR CIVIL GOVERNMENT. THIS IS TRUE FOR THE MILITARY. AND, THIS IS TRUE FOR THE CHURCH TOO.**

**C. THOSE WHO ARE IN CHURCH OFFICE ARE
"WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR."**

1. **THE HONOR THAT GOD DEMANDS FOR THOSE IN CHURCH OFFICE IS NOT CONDITIONAL.**

2. IT DOES NOT DEPEND UPON CERTAIN CONDITIONS OR REQUIREMENTS BEING MET.
3. NOTICE WHAT PAUL DOES NOT SAY. PAUL DOES NOT SAY THEY ARE WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR...
 - a. BECAUSE I AGREE WITH THEIR DECISION
 - b. BECAUSE THEY ARE SUCH NICE GUYS,
 - c. BECAUSE THEY DO SUCH A GOOD JOB,
 - d. BECAUSE THEY PROVE THEMSELVES WORTHY,
 - e. BECAUSE THEY ARE RICH AND SUCCESSFUL IN BUSINESS,
4. THE HONOR WE ARE TO GIVE IS UNCONDITIONAL.
5. WE SEE THIS SO CLEARLY IN [ACTS 23]. PAUL WAS DRAGGED BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN. THE HIGH PRIEST ANANIAS ORDERED THOSE STANDING NEAR PAUL TO STRIKE HIM ON THE MOUTH.
 - a. PAUL SAID, "*GOD SHALL SMITE THEE, THOU WHITED WALLS.*" YOU, YOU *WHITEWASHED WALL ...*"
6. DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT PAUL SAID WHEN HE WAS INFORMED HE HAD JUST INSULTED THE HIGH PRIEST?
 - a. [ACTS 23:5) "*BROTHERS, I DID NOT REALIZE THAT HE WAS THE HIGH PRIEST; FOR IT IS WRITTEN: 'DO NOT SPEAK EVIL ABOUT THE RULER OF YOUR PEOPLE.'*"

7. PAUL WAS UNJUSTLY SLAPPED AND MISTREATED BY THE HIGH PRIEST. SURELY, YOU WOULD THINK, HE HAD A RIGHT TO SAY OR DO SOMETHING.

8. BUT THAT IS NOT WHAT SCRIPTURE SAYS.

a. SCRIPTURE DOES NOT SAY, "DO NOT SPEAK EVIL ABOUT THE RULER OF YOUR PEOPLE UNLESS THEY MISTREAT YOU AND SLAP YOU."

b. SCRIPTURE DOES NOT SAY, "DO NOT SPEAK EVIL ABOUT THE RULER OF YOUR PEOPLE UNLESS THEY DO SOMETHING YOU DISAGREE WITH."

c. THOSE WHO ARE IN CHURCH OFFICE ARE "WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR." NO IFs, NOT BUTs, NO MAYBES, NO CONDITIONS.

D. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DISHONOR THOSE IN CHURCH OFFICE? WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE SHOW DISRESPECT?

1. WHEN WE DO THAT, WE ARE ATTACKING THE LORD HIMSELF.

2. DON'T FORGET, THOSE IN CHURCH OFFICE ARE PICKED BY CHRIST, APPOINTED BY CHRIST, AND ANOINTED BY CHRIST.

3. WHEN WE GO AGAINST GOD'S AUTHORITY STRUCTURE, WE ARE GOING AGAINST THE LORD HIMSELF.

4. WE ARE QUESTIONING AND ATTACKING THE LORD AND HIS WISDOM.

5. **REMEMBER MAN'S FALL INTO SIN AS RECORDED IN [GENESIS 3]? ADAM AND EVE REJECTED AND REBELLED AGAINST GOD'S AUTHORITY.**
 - a. **GOD SAID; [GEN 2:16-17], "*YOU ARE FREE TO EAT FROM ANY TREE IN THE GARDEN; [7] BUT YOU MUST NOT EAT FROM THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL, FOR WHEN YOU EAT OF IT YOU WILL SURELY DIE.*"**
 - b. **ALONG CAME SATAN. SATAN HAS ONE GOAL IN LIFE – TO QUESTION AND CHALLENGE GOD'S AUTHORITY.**
 - c. **SATAN, YOU SEE, WANTS TO OCCUPY GOD'S THRONE.**
 - d. **SATAN THINKS HE CAN DO A BETTER JOB OF RUNNING THE UNIVERSE THAN GOD CAN.**
 - e. **ALONG CAME SATAN, "DID GOD REALLY SAY YOU SHALL SURELY DIE?"**
 - f. **SATAN PLANTED CONFUSION AND DOUBT ABOUT GOD'S AUTHORITY. ADAM AND EVE LISTENED TO THIS AND THE RESULT WAS THE FALL.**
6. **WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL DECIDED TO TAKE MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS WHEN MOSES WENT TO THE TOP OF MOUNT SINAI?**
 - a. **THEY MADE AND WORSHIPED A GOLDEN CALF.**
7. **WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE PEOPLE DECIDED NOT TO LISTEN TO JOSHUA AND MOSES AND CALEB?**

- a. **THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND AND WERE FORCED TO WANDER AROUND THE DESERT FOR FORTY YEARS.**
8. **IT IS ALWAYS A DISASTER WHEN MANKIND QUESTIONS GOD'S AUTHORITY AND GOD'S AUTHORITY STRUCTURE.**
 - a. **IT WAS A DISASTER AT THE BEGINNING OF TIME.**
 - b. **IT WAS A DISASTER IN THE WILDERNESS.**
 - c. **AND, IT IS A DISASTER TODAY.**
 9. **I HAVE NOTICED THAT WHEN THE CHURCH IGNORES OR DISOBEYS GOD'S AUTHORITY STRUCTURE, THAT IS WHEN THE CHURCH RUNS INTO TROUBLE.**
 - a. **GOD TELLS US HOW TO DO EVERYTHING DECENTLY AND IN GOOD ORDER.**
 - b. **HE TELLS US THAT IT IS PASTORS WITH THE AID OF THE DEACONS AND ELDERS WHO RUN THE CHURCH.**
 - c. **HE TELLS US TO HONOR THESE MEN FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR OFFICE.**
 - d. **HE TELLS US THESE MEN ARE WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR.**
 - e. **WE GET INTO TROUBLE WHEN WE DEPART FROM GOD'S WAY OF DOING THINGS.**
- E. **NOT ONLY DO WE GET INTO TROUBLE, BUT GOD HATES IT WHEN HIS PEOPLE DO NOT GIVE HONOR TO THOSE HE HAS APPOINTED AS LEADERS.**

1. **GOD HATES IT! AND, WHAT GOD HATES HE PUNISHES.**
2. **I ASKED AT THE BEGINNING OF MY MESSAGE, WHY AARON'S STAFF MADE IT INTO THE ARK OF THE COVENANT INSTEAD OF SOME OTHER ITEMS.**
 - a. **I MENTIONED THAT GOD SELECTED THE ITEMS THAT WERE MOST IMPORTANT TO HIM AND TO THE LIFE OF HIS PEOPLE.**
 - b. **AARON'S STAFF REMINDED THE PEOPLE THAT GOD APPOINTS AND EQUIPS THE LEADERS OF HIS PEOPLE SO THESE LEADERS ARE TO BE HONORED AND HELD IN THE HIGHEST REGARD.**

F. THOSE WHO ARE IN CHURCH OFFICE ARE NOT JUST WORTHY OF HONOR; THEY ARE "WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR."

1. **BY THIS PAUL MEANS THEY ARE WORTHY OF EXTRA HONOR, OUR UTMOST RESPECT, OUR HIGHEST ESTEEM;**
2. **WE ARE TO HOLD THEM IN HIGH REGARD;**
3. **WE ARE TO HAVE A HIGH OPINION OF THEM.**

GOD HAS APPOINTED THE ELDERS AND DEACONS AND PASTOR TO BE THE SHEPHERDS OF YOUR SOUL, TO GUARD THE FLOCK AGAINST THE ATTACKS OF SATAN, TO STAND WATCH ON THE GATES OF ZION. SO, HONOR THEM.

- I. **HE WAS WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR.**
- II. **HOW DO WE HONOR THOSE WHO ARE DUE DOUBLE HONOR?**

A. BE CAREFUL HOW YOU TALK ABOUT THE ELDERS, DEACONS, AND PASTOR AT SUNDAY DINNER OR MONDAY MORNING COFFEE TIME.

1. **TOO MANY TIMES THE MAIN ITEM ON THE MENU IS A ROAST – ROAST PREACHER, ROAST ELDER, AND ROAST DEACON.**
2. **YOU HONOR THOSE IN CHURCH OFFICE BY TALKING ABOUT THEM IN THE MOST POSITIVE OF WAYS.**
3. **THINK TWICE, AND THEN THINK A COUPLE OF MORE TIMES, BEFORE YOU ATTACK THE WORK OF THE ELDERS.**
4. **DID YOU CATCH WHAT PAUL SAYS IN [VERSE 19]?**
 - a. **[1 TIM 5:19], “*DO NOT ENTERTAIN AN ACCUSATION AGAINST AN ELDER UNLESS IT IS BROUGHT BY TWO OR THREE WITNESSES.*”**
5. **THERE IS A MAIN CLAUSE HERE AND A SUBORDINATE CLAUSE.**
 - a. **THE MAIN CLAUSE SAYS, "DO NOT ENTERTAIN AN ACCUSATION AGAINST AN ELDER."**
 - b. **THAT IS WHERE GOD WANTS THE EMPHASIS TO LIE. "DO NOT."**
 - c. **IN MOST CASES THIS IS FORBIDDEN, THIS IS WRONG, THIS IS A SIN.**
 - d. **BUT IF IT DOES HAPPEN – BECAUSE OF A SERIOUS SIN ON THE PART OF AN OFFICE BEARER – IT NEEDS TO BE ESTABLISHED BY THE WITNESS OF TWO OR THREE.**

- e. **JUST AS IN A COURT OF LAW, THE ELDERS MUST NOT PAY ATTENTION TO THE ACCUSATION OF JUST ONE MAN.**

B. HOW ELSE DO WE SHOW HONOR? [HEBREWS 13] USES THE WORDS "OBEY" AND "SUBMIT": "*OBEY YOUR LEADERS AND SUBMIT TO THEIR AUTHORITY*" [HEB 13:17].

- 1. **LISTEN TO WHAT PAUL ADDS IN HIS FIRST LETTER TO THE THESSALONIANS. HE SAYS,**
 - a. **[1 THESS 5:12-13], "*NOW WE ASK YOU, BROTHERS, TO RESPECT THOSE WHO WORK HARD AMONG YOU, WHO ARE OVER YOU IN THE LORD AND WHO ADMONISH YOU. [13] HOLD THEM IN THE HIGHEST REGARD IN LOVE BECAUSE OF THEIR WORK. LIVE IN PEACE WITH EACH OTHER.*"**
 - b. **PAUL SAYS "RESPECT," "HOLD IN THE HIGHEST REGARD," "LOVE."**
 - c. **WE ARE TO DO ALL OF THIS BECAUSE THOSE GOD HAS APPOINTED TO CHURCH OFFICE ARE "WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR."**

I. HE WAS WORTHY OF DOUBLE HONOR.

II. HOW DO WE HONOR THOSE WHO ARE DUE DOUBLE HONOR?

III. WHAT DID THIS DEACON DO TO MERIT THIS DOUBLE HONOR.

- A. **HE HELPED EVERY PASTOR DIRECT THE AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH.**

1. **THE AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH ARE NOT DIRECTED BY A POPE OR BISHOP.**
 2. **THE AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH ARE NOT DIRECTED BY THE CONGREGATION.**
 3. **THE AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH ARE NOT RUN BY A COUPLE OF RICH PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH.**
 4. **THE AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH ARE NOT RUN BY THE FOUNDING MEMBERS EITHER.**
 5. **OVER THE YEARS I HAVE NOTICED THAT THOSE WHO HELP TO BEGIN A CHURCH, START THINKING OF THE CHURCH AS THEIR CHURCH, THEIR BUILDINGS, THEIR ORGAN, THEIR PIANO, THEIR SOUND SYSTEM, THEIR CONSISTORY.**
 - a. **IT ISN'T YOURS, IT ALL BELONGS TO JESUS.**
 6. **ACCORDING TO THE COMMAND OF CHRIST, THE AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH ARE TO BE DIRECTED BY THE PASTOR WITH THE AID OF THE ELDERS AND THE DEACONS.**
 - a. **THEY ARE THE ONES APPOINTED BY CHRIST TO DIRECT THE AFFAIRS OF HIS CHURCH.**
 - b. **THEY COME UNDER CHRIST AND ARE RESPONSIBLE TO CHRIST AND SOMEDAY NEED TO GIVE ACCOUNT TO CHRIST.**
 - c. **CHRIST IS THE HEAD AND KING OF THE CHURCH AND HE HAS APPOINTED PASTORS, WITH THE AID OF ELDERS AND DEACONS AS HIS UNDER-SHEPHERDS TO GUARD AND PROTECT HIS FLOCK AGAINST THE ATTACKS OF SATAN.**
- B. WE ARE HONORING THIS DEACON TODAY BECAUSE HE HELPED PASTORS AND ELDERS DIRECT THE AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH "WELL."**

- 1. THIS IS NOT A CONDITION FOR HONOR; IT IS A DESCRIPTION OF HOW THOSE IN CHURCH OFFICE ARE TO DIRECT OR RULE THE CHURCH. ELDERS, PASTORS AND DEACONS ARE TO RULE "WELL".**

C. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- a. REBUKE PUBLICLY THOSE WHO SIN SO THAT OTHERS MAY TAKE WARNING.**
- b. DO NOTHING OUT OF FAVORITISM**
- c. DO NOT BE HASTY IN THE LAYING ON OF HANDS [DO NOT LET JUST ANYONE ENTER CHURCH OFFICE],**
- d. AND DO NOT SHARE IN THE SINS OF OTHERS. KEEP YOURSELF PURE [REMEMBER THAT THOSE IN CHURCH OFFICE MUST BE ABOVE REPROACH].**
- e. GUARD WHAT HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED TO YOUR CARE. [HE IS TALKING ABOUT TRUE DOCTRINE.] TURN AWAY FROM GODLESS CHATTER AND THE OPPOSING IDEAS OF WHAT IS FALSELY CALLED KNOWLEDGE ...**

D. TO RULE "WELL" MEANS TO DO EVERYTHING ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD.

- 1. THE WORD OF GOD IS THE RULE FOR THE CHURCH'S DOCTRINE AND LIFE.**
- 2. WHEN THOSE IN CHURCH OFFICE OBEY THE WORD, THEY ARE DIRECTING THE AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH "WELL".**

CONCLUSION

AS WE COME TO DEDICATE THIS BUILDING IN HONOR OF DEACON CHARLIE J. LANE, LET ME TELL YOU WHY HE IS WORTHY OF SUCH AN HONOR.

- 1. HE HAD A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SAVIOR;**
- 2. HE WAS FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT;**
- 3. HE WAS A SERVANT;**
- 4. HE WAS NOT DOUBLE-TONGUED;**
- 5. HE WAS GRAVE OR SERIOUS ABOUT HIS DUTY;**
- 6. HE WAS A MAN OF HIS WORD;**
- 7. HE WAS NOT GREEDY OF FILTHY LUCRE; HE HAD A SPIRITUAL ATTITUDE ABOUT MONEY; HE WASN'T A TIGHT-WAD;**
- 8. HE HELD THE MYSTERIES OF THE FAITH IN A PURE CONSCIENCE; HE WAS WELL GROUNDED IN THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE DOCTRINES OF FAITH.**
- 9. HE WAS PROVEN BEFORE BECOMING A DEACON;**
- 10. HE DIDN'T JUST FILL THE OFFICE, HE USED THE OFFICE.**
- 11. HE CONTROLLED HIS HOME BY EARNING THE LOVE AND THE RESPECT OF HIS FAMILY;**
- 12. HE SERVED FAITHFULLY;**
- 13. HE WAS A SOLDIER:**

- A. HE FOUGHT FOR THE SCRIPTURES**
- B. HE FOUGHT FOR SINNERS RIGHT TO BE SAVED;**
- C. HE FOUGHT FOR THE CHURCH;**
- D. HE FOUGHT FOR HIS PASTOR;**
- E. HE FOUGHT FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST:**
 - ◆ **JESUS SAID IN [JOHN 12:27] *“NOW IS MY SOUL TROUBLED; AND WHAT SHALL I SAY? FATHER SAVE ME FROM THIS HOUR; BUT FOR THIS CAUSE, CAME I UNTO THIS HOUR.”***
 - ◆ **DEACON LANE FOUGHT FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT CHRIST CAME TO DIE FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD;**
 - ◆ **AND, I JUST CAME TO TELL YOU THAT HE DIED ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURE;**
 - ◆ **THAT HE WAS BURIED ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURE;**
 - ◆ **BUT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, HE ROSE ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURE; WITH ALL POWER IN HIS HANDS.**