

1 Timothy 3:1-7

The Noble Task And Character Of The Overseer

(1) The Noble Task Of The Church Overseer (v1)

So I exhort the <u>elders</u> (presbuteros) among you, as a fellow <u>elder</u> (presbuteros) and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd (poimainō - "pastor") the flock of God that is among you, exercising <u>oversight</u> (episkopeō), not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

1 Peter 5:1-3

"You shall appoint judges and officers in all your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment.

Deuteronomy 16:18

Ephesians 4:11-16

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Hebrews 13:17

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions...

2 Timothy 4:3

(2) The Godly Character Of The Church Overseer (v2-7) "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

Matthew 7:15-20

Are you allowing the pastors and elders of your local church to be your shepherds?

Are you praying for the pastors of your local church that they would be up to the noble task of Overseer?

Are you praying for God to raise up more pastors in your local church?

How is God growing these character qualities in you? If applicable, is God growing these in you for the sake of taking on the noble task of Overseer?

