

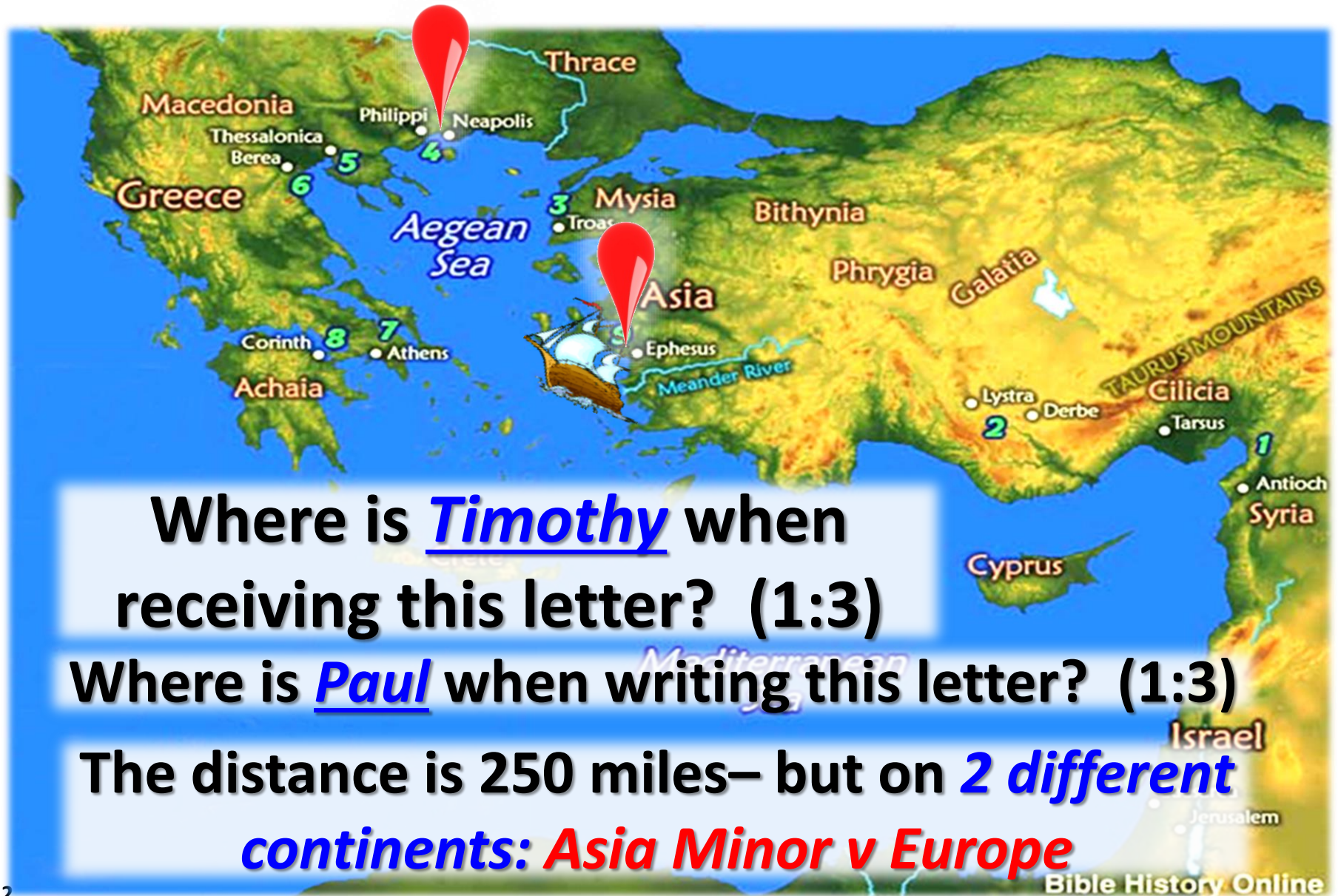
1 Tim 3 *The Elder's Qualifications*

“Blessed are the people whose leaders can look destiny in the eye *without flinching* but also *without attempting to play God*.” Henry Kissinger



German-born American writer, **political scientist, diplomat, and businessman**. Recipient of the **Nobel Peace Prize**, he served as National Security **Advisor** & later concurrently as **Secretary of State** in the administrations of Presidents **Richard Nixon** and **Gerald Ford**. His opinion is sought after by international heads of state.

1 Tim 3 The Elder's Qualifications



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Paul's purpose for this section: (1 Tim 3:14-15)

"I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; ¹⁵ but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know *how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God...*"

Remember: No organization rises higher than its leaders!

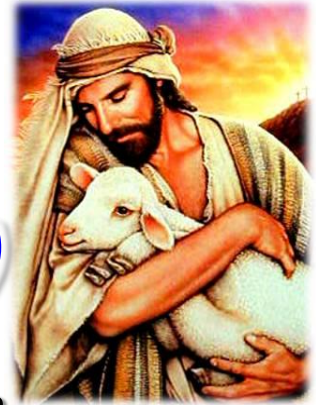
Failure to Prepare is one of greatest hindrances to Lords work. You can't wait 50 years to **BEGIN** preparing. Your Family's ruined, health ruined, knowledge = "0". Start young!

Begin **RIGHT NOW!** (2 Tim 3:17) "That the People of God may be **prepared** for every good work!"

1 Tim 3 The Elder's Qualifications

Elder / Shepherd's Qualifications

(1 Tim 3:1-7, 10a)



v.1 "It is a trustworthy statement" (Pistos Logos)

"The saying is true and irrefutable" AMP

"Here is a statement that you can trust" CJB

"If any man aspires to the office— (Ei' tis)

Greek: "If anyone aspires to oversight"

"It is a fine work he desires to do."

"Beautiful, pleasing, excellent thing" Thayers

"Valuable or virtuous" Strong's

A commendation not a qualification. But, If a man does not WANT to serve, he's apt to be a poor one.

1 Tim 3 *The Elder's Qualifications*

v.2 “An Overseer must:”

[Names suggest job description]

Synonyms indicate aspects:

Elder: Wisdom & experience.
pres-buteros (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5)

Overseer / Bishop Superintend.
epi-skopes (Acts 20:28; Titus 1:7)

Pastor / Shepherd To tend, feed.
poi-me'nas (Eph 4:11; 1Pet 5:2)



**Max Dawson, Beaumont elder 30 for years made
8 preaching trips to South Africa, Zimbabwe &
Botswana to train young preachers.**

1 Tim 3 The Elder's Qualifications

God has Always used elders for His people

In Exodus:

(Ex 3:16) Go gather the elders of Israel

In Kingdom Period:

(1Ki 20:7-8) King of Israel called all the elders

During Captivity

(Ezk 14:1) Some of the elders of Israel came to me

In the Return:

(Ezra 5:5) The eye of their God was on the elders

In the NT

(Mat 21:23) The chief priests & elders came to him.

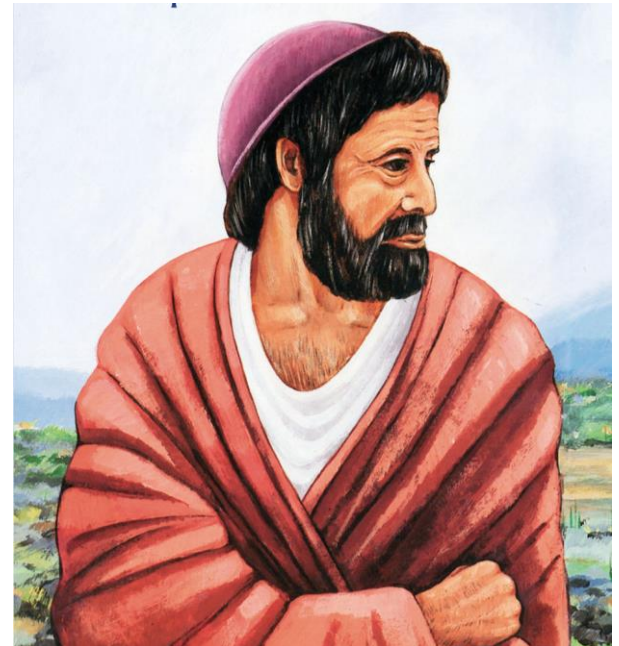
1 Tim 3 The Elder's Qualifications

v.2 “Must be above reproach”–
Has no uncorrected sin remaining.

- ☒ Above reproach
- ☒ One wife
- ☒ Temperate
- ☒ Prudent
- ☒ Respectable
- ☐ Hospitable

Peter's sins were major, But
corrected (Mt 26:70; Gal 2:11)

And Peter was eventually
chosen as an elder
(1Pet 5:1)



1 Tim 3 The Elder's Qualifications

v.2 "Husband of one wife" (*mias gunaikos andra*)

Permits a scriptural remarriage (Rom 7:2-3)

Prohibits bachelors & polygamists
(experience & example to others)

Prohibits: A female elder,
or woman 'married' to woman;
or male 'married' to male;
or unmarried teenage boy.

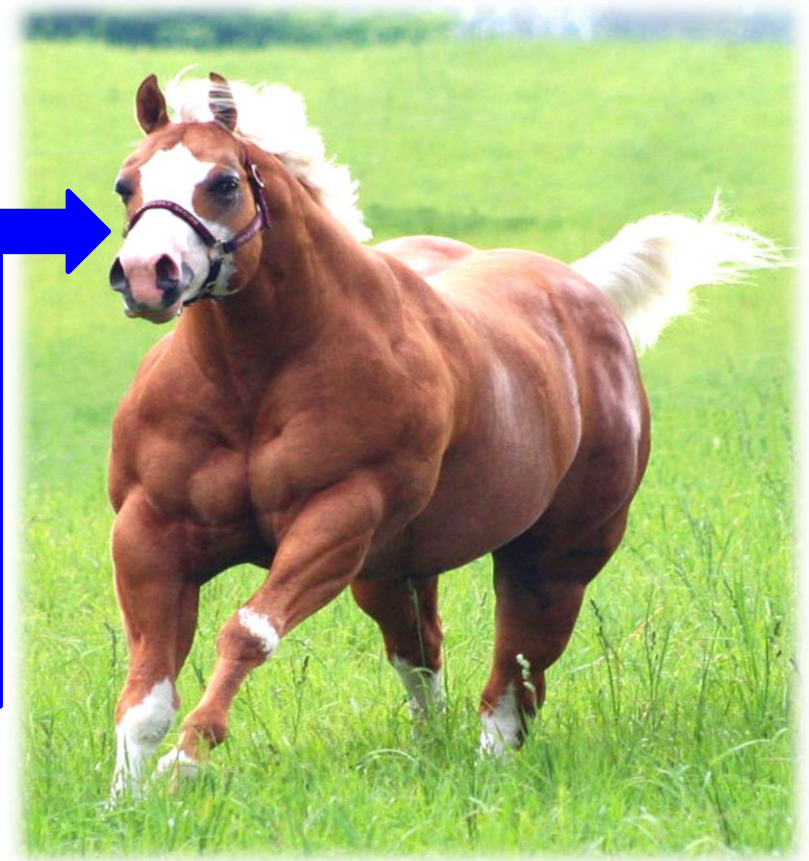


1 Tim 3 The Elder's Qualifications

v.2 "Temperate"—
Greek Nephel-e-os

"Behaving in a sober, restrained manner, self-controlled, and orderly.
Idiomatically: One who always has a halter on himself." Louw & Nida

Balanced temper, time, tongue, habits, food.



*KJV= sober ;
ASV= sober-minded
NIV= self-controlled*

1 Tim 3 The Elder's Qualifications

v.2 “Prudent”—Greek “sophia” for wisdom!

Needed 500,000 times!

(Prov 7:4) Say to Wisdom, “You are my sister.”

(Eccles 7:19) “Wisdom strengthens a man..”

**Good judgment in words, in actions, in decisions,
in suggestions, in teaching, in counseling...**

What impairs cool judgment?

*Discouragement,
Pride, Prejudice, Partiality,
Pressure, Money, Fear,
Frustration, Relatives,
Criticism, Anger.*



1 Tim 3 *The Elder's Qualifications*

v.2 “Respectable”— NAS
Greek Kosmion =
orderly arrangement
(Not flawless)



“Well ordered - in modest apparel” Louw
“Disciplined, and honorable.” Kittle

Is your life in order? Your Business?
Your Finance? Your Family? Your Conduct?

If you can't arrange your life how can
you help others get theirs in order?



1 Tim 3 *The Elder's Qualifications*

v.2 “Hospitable” — (*Greek Philo-xenon*)
Generous to guests, caring for them.

Expected of all saints ! (1Pet.4:9)

Caring for others— Might be at a restaurant. Or are we stingy with time or our finances?



1 Tim 3 The Elder's Qualifications

v.2 “Able to teach”—
(Greek *didati-kon*)

Meaning:
Able or skillful
in teaching.



Thayers: Degree of ability: It's relative.
Can he teach those in the congregation?

Purpose: Can he exhort & encourage?
Can he refute error? (Titus 1:9-10)

1 Tim 3 The Elder's Qualifications

v.3 **“Not addicted to wine”**—
(Greek Par-oinon)



Thayers: *“One who sits long at wine.”*

Barnes: *“One who is in the habit of drinking it.”*

Is there an alcohol problem present?

(Prov 23:29-33)

There was a medicinal use if necessary
(1 Tim 5:23)

But must not cause others to stumble.
(1 Cor 10:31-32)

1 Tim 3 The Elder's Qualifications

v.3 “Not Pugnacious”—

*Violent, a bully. Louw
(KJV= no striker)
Suggests an aggressive
disposition.*



Demonstrates *poor reasoning, weak
communication skills, insecurity, or
poor emotional control.*

Can you Un-learn *angry; illogical
problem-solving methods? Sometimes.*

1 Tim 3 *The Elder's Qualifications*

v.3 “Gentle”— *Greek Epi-ei-ke; (KJV= patient)*

Meaning: *fair, reasonable, kind, mild.*

Does not carelessly offend,
and is not easily offended.

Can you be reasoned
with? As a husband?
As a parent?
As a saint?



1 Tim 3 The Elder's Qualifications

v.3 “Uncontentious”—
Greek a-machon

Louw & Nida: “Peaceful”
Kittle: “Not quarrelsome.”



Elderships doesn't need men who “LIKE” to argue.
Some men have a “Chip on their shoulder”
& “dare” you to knock it off.

1 Tim 3 The Elder's Qualifications

v.3 “Free from the love of money”—
Greek a-filár-guron
Not covetous.

Louw & Nida:
Not greedy.
Not loving wealth.

Are you *sacrificial* ?
What would you give
up for money?
Ethics/honor/church?



1 Tim 3 The Elder's Qualifications

v.4 “Manages his own household well”—
Good manager.

“Good, so there’s no cause for blame.” **Thayers**
Not inconsistent & exasperating
the children (Col 3:21)

Not harsh, preferential, neglectful
to embitter (Eph 6:4)

Try individual & round-table
family talks (Jas 1:19)



1 Tim 3 The Elder's Qualifications

v.4 “Keeping children under control with all dignity” (Tit 1:6)

Presiding over his children, keeping them in subjection, conscientiously. Family leadership suggests how he'll do in congregational leadership. Children's behavior reflect on their parents. IVP



What if only 1 child? Plural includes single!

(Eph 6:1) Children obey your parents.

(Col 3:1) Fathers do not provoke you children.

(Titus 2:4) Young women to love their children.

(Gen 21:7) Sarah nursed children (yet bore 1 son !)

1 Tim 3 *The Elder's Qualifications*

v.6 “Not a new convert”— (*Greek neo-phuton*)

Meaning: Not newly planted. (*Thayers*)

Reason: Youthful conceit blinds with prejudice!



Question How could NT saint's soon? (Acts 14:23; 1 Cor 12:8-9) Miraculous wisdom & knowledge.

1 Tim 3 The Elder's Qualifications

v.7 **“Good reputation with those outside the church”**

“Well spoken of.” (eg. Cornelius Acts 10.
Timothy Acts 16.)



Difficult to hide a notorious reputation!

Though not all will speak well of you (Lk 6:26)

“First be tested” (v.10) Examine, scrutinize.

a. **Don't approve first**— then check !!!

b. **You'll not know all**—but have a idea.

**On Job, at Bank, Sports,
w/ Relatives, Neighbors?**