

RBC Bible Study 2023

1 Timothy Bible Study

11/1/23

Instructions for Treatment of the Elders (Preachers) and Concerns (1 Timothy 5:17-25)

1. (5:17-18) How to Treat Elders (Preachers): Remuneration for service was a fixture in the ancient world. Philosophers expected to receive some form of pay for sharing insights and running their schools. This was no different with the priesthood within the Jewish system and it transferred over to clergy in the early church. Paul instructed that those who labored in the Scripture should be paid and cared for in their service of the Word of God.
2. (5:19-22) Disciplining and Choosing Elders: Scripture established that the witness of two or three would be grounds for a conviction in matters of law (Deut 17:6; 19:5). With this in mind, Paul argues the witness of two or three would be sufficient to bring an accusation against an elder in the church. But accusations were not to be brought before this threshold had been met. The elders who refused to accept correction were to be called out by Timothy in front of the entire congregation so that others would fear such a rebuke. And all of this was to be done without bias.
3. (5:23) Drink a Little Wine: Drinking water only was considered a moral quality by many in the ancient world. Indeed, Paul instructed Timothy that elders should not be drunkards (3:3). But, here, Paul clarifies that some wine is necessary for Timothy to help with his stomach. Dealing with health issues outweighed the perception of purity.
4. (5:24-25) Matters of Judgment: Paul concludes his discussion discipline for elders with a parabolic summation. Paul suggests that neither sins nor good works can ultimately be hidden.