



Leadership: Challenges & Blessings

**FETTES PARK BAPTIST CHURCH,
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*“If anyone **aspires** to **leadership** (to the office of overseer), he desires a **noble task**”*

~1 Timothy 3:1

- APOSTLE PAUL TO TIMOTHY

2 Tim 3:1-17: Context

- Paul's last existing letter to Timothy, his spiritual child
- Timothy was going through a challenging time overseeing and organizing the church at Ephesus
- False teachers and teachings were challenging the authority of Timothy and leading some members astray
- Until relief came (Tychicus; cf. 4:12), Timothy was to oppose these errant teachers, instruct the church and remain faithful to his calling.

3 aspects on leadership

- a. The challenge of leadership (vv.1-9)
- b. The consolation of leadership (vv.10-13)
- c. The compass of leadership (vv.14-17)



The Challenge of leadership

(2 Tim 3:1-9)

- **The human condition** (vv. 1ff): “there will come times of *difficulty* for *people...*” We work with fallen, sinful people, both in and outside the church
 - *Misdirected loves* – lovers of self, lovers of money, & lovers of pleasure instead of lovers of God
 - *Inflated egos* – proud, arrogant, “swollen with conceit”

The Challenge of leadership (cont'd)

- *Spurious spirituality* -unholy, having the “appearance of godliness” but “denying its power;” luring spiritually weak women into sin; always learning but never arriving at true knowledge; opposed to the truth; disqualified regarding the faith
- *Character flaws* – abusive, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, mentally corrupted

Implications

1. Leadership is not for the faint-hearted
2. We're all broken people; thankfully, God uses broken people
3. Leaders need to develop their EQ



The Consolation of leadership

(2 Tim 3:10-13)

- **Like-minded companions (kindred spirits):**
Timothy was a like-minded colleague of Paul
- Followed Paul's teaching, conduct (way of life), aim in life (purpose), faith (towards God), patience (towards others and adversities), love (towards all others), steadfastness (to the end); vv.10-11
- This verb suggests a closeness in following Paul. It's not in one or two aspects but it's a 'whole-of-life' discipleship experience

The Consolation of leadership

(cont'd)

- Timothy had observed Paul's persecutions and sufferings, particularly those @Antioch, Iconium, Lystra when Timothy was a young man; through it all, the Lord delivered Paul (v.11)

There's a bonding effect of going through trials, hardships (persecutions and suffering) together.

2 realities are evident as a result: (a) all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted (v.12); and (b) evil people and imposters will morally regress even more (v.13).

Implications

1. The comfort of friends, particular kindred spirits, often get us through tough times in life and ministry
2. Those times reminded me why the Lord puts us in communities of his people
3. We all need to find such individuals in our lives. As we make time for them, we ourselves are blessed. Do you have your 'past-midnight' friends?



The Compass of leadership

(2 Tim 3:14-17)

□ **The Word of God**

Word of God is not only what we believe in/become convinced of (NIV); we need to continually **study** it so that we **learn** and experience its truths

Paul told Timothy in v.14: “Continue in what you have **learned**... knowing from whom you have **learned** it.” Paul was talking about “sacred Scriptures” that Timothy was trained in from childhood by his grandmother, Lois, and mother, Eunice (1:5) and also Paul himself (vv.10-11).

The impact of Scriptures in our lives

- “wise for salvation” through faith in Christ Jesus (v.15)
- profitable for **teaching** (sound instruction in God’s truths, including doctrine and matters of Christian conduct), **reproof** (rebuke) & **correction** (task of discipline and aligning errant conduct with that taught in God’s Word), for **training in righteousness** (goal of teaching and discipline)
- makes us “complete” (actualize our full spiritual potential as God’s people), “equipped” (readiness, abilities) for “every good work” (ministry competencies, Christian character) as a man of God.

Implications

The Bible is our best leadership manual. Spend time studying it so that we can accurately discern what to do through its instruction and direction

