

How can Christians witness, if they live as nonbelievers?

Lesson Scripture: 1 Timothy 3:2-15.

Lesson Aims: to explain the qualifications for church leadership, to appreciate those standards, and to seek God's guidance when selecting leaders.

Background: We must remember that the Pastoral Letters were penned by Paul while he was imprisoned a second time. He recognized that his time wasn't long and he desired to train the ones who would pick up the mantle. He wrote to two of his trusted followers, Timothy (in Ephesus) and Titus (in Crete). Both stationed at different churches, he knew what faced them.

Both of these men had to lead their congregations in understanding the relationship between church order and godly living. Timothy dealt with a long-standing Gentile church while Titus ministered

to a new Jewish Christian church. Paul's instructions were aimed at promoting sound doctrine and choosing godly leaders. A church will not carry out its mission, if the leaders are not rooted and living in the Truth.

Lesson: As Paul continues to give instructions that can be passed on (even after Timothy and Titus), he mentions two church offices. The first is the office of bishop (overseer), and the next is deacon (server). The Compact Bible Dictionary defines bishop as the "principal officer of the local church; a person-oriented individual who cares about the growth and well-being of others."

The title of "elder (presbyter)" generally refers to the age and dignity while bishop points to his work of superintendence" (Richards' Complete Bible Handbook).

It is an authoritative role within the early church. Paul



Mildred Peppers
Sunday School Lesson

states that the bishop is to be blameless (above reproach); the husband of one wife (fidelity within a culture that does otherwise); hospitable (willing to assist); and able to teach.

Then the apostle uses reverse ideas to highlight those behaviors that are to be avoided. Those vices include avoiding addictions, being involved in heated arguments, not being a lover of money

(filthy lucre), and not being jealous of others.

Worship in the early church is held in homes; therefore, the behaviors of the family can be observed. This can add to or take away from the service. How can you run God's house and you can't run your own? Timothy is encouraged not to be overly impressed with the novice (new convert). This person will burn brightly at first,

moving up quickly and then be consumed by his pride and will crash and burn.

The second office carries similar qualifications as the bishop. Coming from the Greek term, diakonos, deacon means servant. Acts 6:1-4 gives the best description of their ministry. Like the bishop, the deacon's life must demonstrate their relationship with Christ. Due to the nature of the ministry, the deacon must keep all things confidential. Romans 16:1 indicates that women served as deacons in the early church. Paul anticipates returning to the city; however, if he doesn't make it, they will have the proper instructions.

Application: For there to be order in God's house, leadership is key! Leaders who don't meet God's standards will be the catalyst for trouble and disunity. Without order, the church will not be able to fulfill its purpose.

Search the Scriptures of the Old Testament to see how God holds the religious leaders accountable. God's standards do not reflect worldly trends. Church leadership isn't based on job titles, salaries, where you live, or what you drive. Christian leadership is to be taken seriously and not based on eagerness, friendship, or how much you pay in church.

As believers, God can use all of us, including "the women." The church serves as the "keeper of the Truth" (Echoes Adult Teacher). How, then, can we lead others to Christ if our lives are not based on His Word? Can the called out (the church) witness to a dying world if we live as they do?

I owe each of you an apology for last week. It was my fault that the lesson didn't get in. I will do my best not to let that happen again. Please forgive me.

Apostle Jordan New Trinity Baptist will study 'The Ministry of Money'

accepted at bible college

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Apostle Stephan Jordan, pastor of House of Faith, has been accepted at Vintage Bible College. Apostle Jordan is pursuing, among other things, a bachelor's degree.



Stephan Jordan

He also has been accepted on the board of Headstart Assembly throughout Winston-Salem communities.

House of Faith is very proud of its pastor. He has started his classes and is excited about going. He wants to better himself and be effective in God's Word, so he can be effective in the church and community.

He has been preaching for five years. He loves the Lord with all his heart, and he loves to teach and preach the Word of God.

One of his main concerns is young people.

Jordan also says, "We need to stop focusing on ourselves and focus on someone else."

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

During 2006, the Wednesday night Bible study at New Trinity Baptist Church will focus on "The Ministry of Money."

Participants will address, investigate and discuss many factors concerning money, wealth and prosperity. Organizers hope that everyone who participates in this study will grow stronger, wiser, and more productive and positive in the pursuit and use of financial resources - and that people will grow closer to God and become more effective in their Christian lives.

Many within the black community have not been taught how to properly increase, manage and use their financial resources. Blacks have made some significant gains financially over the last 40 years but have not been as wise as they could have been in the use of this gain.

Officials at New Trinity believe that a proper understanding of money cannot be obtained in one or two teachings but must be administered in training sessions or over a significant period of time to become a part of people's lifestyles.



God's desire is that we leave an inheritance to our children's children. We have failed to do this within a large segment of our community.

Pastor Michael Samuels said it is his desire that people learn biblical and practical truths concerning money so that they can improve themselves, their families, their communities, and to help the generations that follow us to be able to live productive lives to the glory of God.

Participants will study:

- What is God's view of money, wealth and prosperity?
- Is man's view of money consistent with God's?
- How to come in agreement with God and how to practice godly principles.
- Money is only a tool that God uses on the Earth - putting money in its proper place.
- How to develop a proper attitude that brings increase and blesses others.
- The power and practice of ser-

vanhood:

- Understanding real estate, the stock market, business development and other investments.
- How to teach your children to value money and honor God.
- The foundation and power of love.
- Lord, am I my worst enemy, in a me?

These are just a few points that participants will discuss during the year. People who work in financial resources, real estate, and investments along with some Christian millionaires will share ideas and strategies.

Along with the Bible, participants will study from the books "How to Become a Millionaire God's Way" by Pastor Dr. C. Thomas Anderson and "God's Secret to Greatness (The Power of the Towel)" by David Cape and Tommy Tenney. These books can be ordered online, purchased through your local bookstore, or if you are interested in attending these sessions, the church can order them at a discount. Contact the church or visit any session on Wednesday night at 7. New Trinity Baptist Church at 1240 E. 22nd St.

Allen preaches at Faith Unity Missionary Church

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Faith Unity Missionary Church began its first service on Jan. 1 with the Rev. Miller Allen delivering a heartfelt sermon for the new year. Currently, the church is having services in the Prince Hall Masonic Temple, 1025 E. 14th St. Allen is scheduled to preach for the next two Sundays.

Allen came to the church highly

recommended. He is a retiree of 34 years from Duke Power, where he earned the Presidential Elite Award for being the No. 1 salesman in North and South Carolina in 1988. He also received other outstanding awards from the company.

Allen has attended Piedmont Bible College, LaSalle Extension University, Virginia Union, and is currently a student at Winston-Salem

State University.

He has served on many boards in the community. Some are Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful, Crisis Control, Samaritan Soup Kitchen, Best Choice Center, The Salvation Army, Senior Services, and Gospel on Wheels Outreach.

The Mentor of the Year award from Best Choice Center has been bestowed upon Allen in the past. This

month, Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful will honor Allen.

Allen is a motivational speaker. He has had the opportunity to speak at Winston-Salem State University, BB&T, and Seventh Day Academy.

Some of Allen's ministries include the jail, prison, rest home, and Rescue Mission.

Allen is married to Alice, and they have a son and daughter.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

United Progressive Baptist Church
PASTOR LEWIS E. DEVLIN
 Home Tel: (336) 767-7825
 Office Tel: (336) 724-1266
 Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
 Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.
 Thursday Grandparents Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.
 At E. 12th & Jackson Avenue
 1122 Quincey Caldwell Circle
 Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Pastor Lewis E. Devlin and
1st Lady Mary E. Devlin

To have your church included, call 723-8428

"Praise Assembly Christian Center, Inc."
 2252 Queen Street, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103
 (336) 723-1020 Fax (336) 217-8088
 www.paccinc.org
 Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 A.M.
 Tuesday Prayer Service - 6:30 P.M.
 Wednesday Bible Study - Noon & 7:30 P.M.
 Dr. York can be heard each Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. on "The Light" 1340AM
 "A Ministry Where Jesus Is Lord!"

Dr. & Mrs. Johnny L. York

Macedonia Holiness Church Of God Of The Apostolic Faith, Inc.
Sunday Services
 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
 M.Y.P.U. 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Services
 Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 p.m.
 4111 Whitfield Drive
 Phone: 336-767-3700
 Fax: 336-767-7006

Bishop R.L. Wise, Sr.
D.D.; S.T.D. - Pastor

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
 1201 New Hope Lane
 WS, NC 27105
 www.newhopecathedral.org
 We invite YOU to worship with us!

Senior Pastor, Bishop John C. Parks

Watch Night Service - Renaissance 2005 - A New Beginning
 Dec 31 @ 9:00 PM
 Gospel Recording artist Jessie O'Banner
 Anointed word - Bishop John C. Parks
 Talent Show (\$100 First place prize) -
 Entry form required and must be received by Dec 26.
 Food, games, crafts for youth

Transportation available:
 Call church office at
 336 724-5401
 for more information
 or email
 dbooe@newhopecathedral.org

Grace United Holiness Church
 129 Furlong Industrial Drive
 Kernersville, NC 27284
 336-992-3190

Services at Grace
 Sunday Morning Prayer...9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School.....10:00 p.m.
 Morning Worship.....11:15 a.m.
 Evening Service.....4:00 p.m.
 Tuesday Evening.....7:00 p.m.

Scriptures
 Acts 2:4
 Acts 2:37-40
 Acts 10:44-48
 Acts 19:16

Pastor Ricky Wilson

For Directions Visit Our Website www.graceuhc.com

New World Cappadocia Outreach Center
 P.O. Box 4543
 Winston-Salem, NC 27115
 (336) 744-7924

Sunday 11:30 AM Morning Worship
Sunday 5:00 PM Evening Worship
Wednesday 7:00 PM Bible Study
Monday 7:00 PM School of Leaders
Saturday Outreach TBA

Pastor Melvin "Rip" Wilkins Sr. & 1st Lady Wilkins

STEADFAST LIFE CHANGING MINISTRIES, INC.

"Where Broken Lives Are Made Whole."

Sunday Services
 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Services
 Prayer & Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Akline Ingram Jr. and 1st Lady Sandra D. Ingram

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