



- 1 Timothy 3

**The saying is trustworthy:  
If anyone aspires to the office of overseer,  
he desires a noble task.**

**1 Timothy 3:1**

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**If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble *task*.**

**The overseer's work is *work*.**

- It is work.

If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble **task**.

*“by working hard”*

**The overseer’s work is work.**

**Acts 20:18-35**

- Acts 20: by working hard... (35)
  - Acts 20:34-35 (ESV) 34 You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. 35 In all things I have shown you **that by working hard in this way we must help the weak** and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

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**Acts 20:18-35**

- Paul uses his example among them (2 years)
  - ministered to my necessities
    - those who were with me
    - help the weak
  - teaching gospel
  - teaching saints
    - Acts 20:20: how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house,

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Care

Acts 20:18-35

- Acts 20:28 (ESV) 28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to **care** for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.
  - Care = shepherd, feed, take care of

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Care

be alert

admonish

defend

Acts 20:18-35

- Acts 20:31: Therefore be **alert**, remembering that for three years I did **not cease** night or day to **admonish** every one with tears.
  - Acts 20:29-30 (ESV) 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

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**Acts 20:18-35**

- Acts 20:32: And now I commend you **to God and to the word of his grace**, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.



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**1 Peter 5:1-3**

- 1 Peter 5: Shepherd (2)
  - shepherd the flock of God that is among you,
    - exercising oversight
    - but being examples to the flock
      - not domineering over those in your charge,.

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Titus 1:9

- Titus 1: Instruction & Rebuke
  - 9 He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to **give instruction** in sound doctrine and also to **rebuke** those who contradict it.

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**The work of an overseer is noble.**

- It is a noble work.

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those who have believed in God may be careful  
to devote themselves to good works

Titus 3:8

- Titus 3:8 (ESV) 8 The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

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And let our people learn to devote themselves  
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- Titus 3:14 (ESV) 14 And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.



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- TDNT: In these passages, kalós has for the most part the philosophical sense of 'right,' 'orderly,' or 'excellent,' manifested in such things as right conduct, correct teaching, and a proper attitude to the world.
- Lenski's: "Excellent" = noble in itself and also noble in the eyes of others who know how to appreciate this quality; ἀγαθοῦ would mean beneficial to those served as it does in Eph. 4:12. **The emphasis is on "excellent."**

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- God doesn't want us to be ordinary, He desires that we be extraordinary.
  - Excellence
  - Going above and beyond

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to care for the church of God, which he  
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Acts 20:28

- Despite problems, pressures, difficulties, those who consider this work, must realize it is so valuable and precious to God.
- It is worthy of the sacrifice of our lives.
- We, who submit to elders, must realize what an excellent work it is.

If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he **desires** a noble task.

**The work of an overseer is desirable.**

- It is a desirable work

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**The work of an overseer is desirable.**

- (TDNT - Abridged) It may denote hunger (Lk. 15:16), longing (Lk. 22:15), or a desire for the divine mysteries (Mt. 13:17) or for anything good (Phil. 1:23; 1 Tim. 3:1).
- Philippians 1:23: I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

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**Men should **aspire** to be overseers.**

- We should aspire to be overseers.

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**"stretch one's self forward to grasp"; "aim at"**  
Jamieson, Fausset , and Brown Commentary

**Men should **aspire** to be overseers.**

- JFB: desire--literally, "stretch one's self forward to grasp"; "aim at": a distinct Greek verb from that for "desireth." What one does voluntarily is more esteemed than what he does when asked (1Co 16:15). This is utterly distinct from ambitious desires after office in the Church. (Jas 3:1)



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- Vincent: Originally to stretch forth, to reach after. Here it implies not only desiring but **seeking after**. The word implies **eagerness**, but not of an immoderate or unchristian character.

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For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this **craving** that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

1 Timothy 6:10

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But as it is, they **desire** a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Hebrews 11:16

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not under compulsion ... not for shameful gain ... not domineering  
1 Peter 5:2

- Wrong way of Aspiring...
  - 1 Peter 5:2: **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.

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- 3 John 1:9-10 (ESV) 9 I have written something to the church, but **Diotrephes**, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. 10 So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.

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- Mark 10:35-45 (ESV) 35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." 36 And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" 37 And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." 38 Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" 39 And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, 40 but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." 41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. 42 And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

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- Philippians 2:3-8: **Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit**, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

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Philippians 2:4

- Right way of Aspiring...
  - Philippians 2:3-8: Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you **look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others**. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a **servant**, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.



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- Mark 10:43-45: But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your **servant**, 44 and whoever would be first among you **must be slave of all**. 45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

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- Aspiring to the Work
  - Do you aspire to this work? Is it something that you are eager to do?
  - Paul implies that all Christian men should aim for this, to be elders
  - Not preachers, but elders (has our focus been somewhat skewed?)
- Sadly, too many Christian men don't aspire to this work.

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- What keeps us from aspiring this work?
  - Distractions (family, career)
  - Difficult
  - Responsibility
  - Guilt (not accepting forgiveness)
  - Be very careful that you do not make rationalizations that keep you from this work.



- Challenge to congregation: How are you helping make it easy for men to aspire to this work?
- Challenge to young men: planning future ... on list, be an elder. Start now!
- Challenge to men - If you aspire to it,
  - you will make sure that you are the right kind of man
  - you will make sure that you prepare yourself to deal with the work involved.

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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## Aspires to the Office of Overseer

1 Timothy 3:1

Synopsis: Paul tells us that the office of overseer is a work (hard work); a noble (excellent) work; that is desirable and should be aspired to (stretched out for). In this lesson, the men and the congregation are encouraged to really aspire to be, to encourage and to have shepherds.

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