

## SERMON NOTES



### This week's sermon

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN

1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7

The church leader is called an "overseer." That word is interchangeable with elder, pastor, minister, preacher, reverend, or even, as some call them, priest. No matter what he is called, he is to be a shepherd first.

*"If any man aspires to the office of overseer."* It is an office. It is a job. It is a job that requires a person to want to be the one who cares for the people, who leads the flock. What sort of man must this be? A good man. A humble man. A man willing to make the good of the rest of the group his top priority. What this is not is a professional clergyman.

At Harvest we call our overseers, elders. We have two categories of elders: vocational and non-vocational; and executive elders and campus elders. Within those categories, we have various functions.

## Digging Deeper into the Message

*“So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, 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. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.” 1 Peter 5:1-4*

1. To whom is this passage speaking?
2. How is Paul a witness to the sufferings of Christ?
3. What else of Christ’s will elders partake in, according to the first part of the passage?
4. How are elders supposed to shepherd the flock?
5. Who is the chief Shepherd mentioned in the end? What happens when he appears?
6. What are three things you observe about this text?
7. Even though this text is to elders, what is one thing you learn from the text that you can apply to your life?

## Community Group

**ICEBREAKER:** Think of a man you know (not someone in this room) who you think is a good husband and father. Describe him.

**QUESTIONS:** For all of the Bible passages below, everyone look up each passage and read along in your own bible as one person reads aloud. Then answer the questions that follow.

- ❖ Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7.
  - What are the qualifications of elder, according to this passage?
  - Why is this an office for men and not women?
  - Go around the room and everyone share an observation about the text. (If this is your first time at group, you can just listen, unless you want to talk!)
  - Does this passage mean a pastor should step down if his child becomes rebellious?
- ❖ Read Galatians 6:6.
  - What is this passage saying? (who is the one taught the word and who is he supposed to be sharing with?)
  - How can you apply this passage to your life?
- ❖ Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.
  - What was this passage communicating to the people at that time?
  - How can it be applied to us today?
- ❖ Read Hebrews 13:17.
  - Are we really supposed to do what our pastors tell us?
  - Why?
  - What does the last sentence mean?
  - How can you personally apply this to your life?
- ❖ Read Acts 20:26-31.
  - Is there anything in this passage that you find confusing or don’t understand?
  - Go around the room and everyone share at least one thing you observe about the text.
  - How can you apply this passage to your life?
- ❖ Read the front of the MAP. Why does Harvest have elders?

**APPLICATION: taking into account what you’ve read and discussed today, how can you pray for the pastors/elders of Harvest this week and on a regular basis?**