

# **Saint Timothy Lutheran Church – Edmonds, WA.**

May 16, 2010 – Rev. Craig A. Patterson

## **“The Pastor: Equipped By God With Certain Attributes.”**

(Text: I Timothy 3:1-7)

**Context:** The Apostle Paul writes to his beloved son in the faith, Timothy, regarding attributes that any man who aspires to the office of “overseer” needs to possess. After applauding a man’s desire to seek after the office and task of overseer, Paul clarifies the qualities that an overseer (a pastor) will need to have. The task is quite demanding. These particular qualities/attributes are necessary for the carrying out of this calling. If not equipped with these attributes, the pastor could fall into the traps of becoming proud, discouraged, disrespected, inept in the task of teaching, or other such snares set up by the devil. The devil is the Enemy of the Good News of Jesus and does all that he can to disrupt the activity of getting the Good News to sinners’ ears.

### **I. The Enemies Of The Gospel Seek To Stop The Spreading Of The Gospel Message.**

- A. Servants of God who carry the Gospel to others (all believers and especially the called servants of the Word) will be attacked by the devil and those who oppose Jesus. (Attacking the messenger to stop the message is an age-old tactic.)
- B. The devil uses various strategies to test and try God’s servants of the Word.
  - 1. Young and new pastors can become proud.
    - a. With their newly learned knowledge.
    - b. With their anticipation of changing the lives of people around them and doing great things for God.
    - c. With a worldly view of their status and position.
  - 2. Any way to discredit a pastor is always sought out by the devil and the enemies of the Christ.
    - a. Any reproach of one of God’s servants of the Word is like a handle on which to pull downward with hopes of toppling a pastor from his perch of respectability. Thus, the devil will tug.
    - b. Any sexual indiscretion is opportunity for the devil.
    - c. Any misbehavior of the pastor’s family is an opportunity for the devil to discredit the messenger.
    - d. Any misuse of alcohol/drugs is an opportunity to discredit the messenger and the message.
    - e. The pastor (and any believer) becoming “out of balance” in one area of life or other gives the devil a tool with which to undermine the believability of the Gospel.

### **II. God Equips Pastors With Certain Attributes Needed For Carrying Out The Gospel Ministry.**

- A. God leads men into the pastoral ministry who are above reproach.
  - 1. This does not mean that such a person is sinless, just that he has no evident public sin (a handle that the devil could tug on).
- B. God gives the pastor-to-be “balance” in regards to his sexuality (husband of but one wife), alcohol (not an abuser). He is prudent and wise, not pugnacious (always looking for a fight), and free from the love of money. (He’s been tested.)
  - 1. Such balance frees the pastor to serve God and serve people.
  - 2. He is not a servant to some other passionate desire within his person.
- C. God gives to the pastor-to-be ability to manage his own family well.
  - 1. For how could he manage the church without this ability? (Not too meek, nor acting as a lord over others.)
- D. God gives the pastor the experience of learning (having been taught) the Scriptures, the Gospel, so he can teach it well.