

A decorative border with scrollwork in the corners and thick lines on the top and bottom, framing the text.

# The Ordination of an Elder

In the church of Jesus Christ, there is divine government, appointed by God.

### **Titus 1:5**

- <sup>5</sup> For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:



The ordination (or appointment) of elders is found throughout the Bible. In the Old Testament, it is pictured by the tribe of the Levites. The Levites were separated unto the special task of serving the Tabernacle, as an offering – a living sacrifice – to the Lord.

### **Numbers 8:14-15**

- <sup>14</sup> Thus shalt thou separate the Levites from among the children of Israel: and the Levites shall be mine.
- <sup>15</sup> And after that shall the Levites go in to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation: and thou shalt cleanse them, and offer them *for an offering*.



They were separated by God to himself even before they were born.

### Numbers 8:16-18

- <sup>16</sup> For they *are* wholly given unto me from among the children of Israel; instead of such as open every womb, *even instead of* the firstborn of all the children of Israel, have I taken them unto me.
- <sup>17</sup> For all the firstborn of the children of Israel *are* mine, *both* man and beast: on the day that I smote every firstborn in the land of Egypt I sanctified them for myself.
- <sup>18</sup> And I have taken the Levites for all the firstborn of the children of Israel.

They were separated for the work to which they were called.

### **Deuteronomy 10:8**

<sup>8</sup> At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister unto him, and to bless in his name, unto this day.



The Levites were presented as a gift to the high priest. (This verse was spoken by God to Aaron.)

### **Numbers 18:6**

- <sup>6</sup> And I, behold, I have taken your brethren the Levites from among the children of Israel:  
to you *they are* given as a gift for the LORD, to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.



In the New Testament, the ministry of the Levites is fulfilled by ministers of the Gospel. They too have been separated by the Lord unto the gospel of God.

### **Romans 1:1**

- <sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,





The minister of the Gospel has not only has been separated by the Lord, but he is to separate himself as well from anything that would damage his office.

## **2 Corinthians 6:17**

<sup>17</sup> Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,





In the Old Testament, the Levites were given by God to help do the work of God. In the New Testament, God also gives certain people special abilities to serve the church.

### **Ephesians 4:11-13**

- <sup>11</sup> And he gave some, apostles;  
and some, prophets;  
and some, evangelists;  
and some, pastors and teachers;
- <sup>12</sup> For the perfecting of the saints,  
for the work of the ministry,  
for the edifying of the body of Christ:
- <sup>13</sup> Till we all come in the unity of the  
faith, and of the knowledge of the  
Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto  
the measure of the stature of the  
fulness of Christ:

## Gift Ministries and Church Offices

A ministry of an apostle, prophet, pastor, evangelist or teacher is a gift of grace just like salvation itself. It is not a reward for service. As Hebrews 5:4 says, “And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God.” Because this appointment is by God, it is an appointment for life. He will either fulfill or neglect his ministry, but he cannot escape it.

But in the church, there are also positions of leadership, or offices. The chief elder is called a bishop. His assistants are called deacons. These appointments are given to people who fulfill the necessary qualifications, so long as they fulfill them.

## The Qualifications for Holding Office

To have the desire to serve the Lord is a good thing. But true desire is shown in action, not feelings. A gospel worker shows his devotion in the way he conducts his life. As Jesus said, “By their fruits ye shall know them” (Matt 7:20).

### 1 Timothy 3:1-3

- 1 This is a true saying,  
If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.
- 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;
- 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;



## The Qualifications for Holding Office

A man will govern his congregation no differently than he governs those who live under his roof. Therefore, a man's own house is his "living epistle" known and read of all men.

### 1 Timothy 3:4-5

- 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;
- 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)



## The Qualifications for Holding Office

Neither should he be new to the service of the Lord, for those who are spiritually immature too easily fall to pride.

### **1 Timothy 3:6**

- <sup>6</sup> Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.



## The Qualifications for Holding Office

We earn our reputation by our consistent conduct. A bishop should be someone who is respected within his community.

### **1 Timothy 3:7**

- <sup>7</sup> Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.



## The Qualifications for Holding Office

Those appointed to assist the bishop – the deacons – should also live according to the Scriptures.

### 1 Timothy 3:8-9

- 8 Likewise *must* the deacons *be* grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;
- 9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.





## The Qualifications for Holding Office

The ordination to office is not based on potential, but proven service.

### **1 Timothy 3:10**

<sup>10</sup> And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being *found* blameless.



## The Qualifications for Holding Office

Paul sent these instructions to Timothy so we would know how we should behave in the house of God.

### **1 Timothy 3:15**

<sup>15</sup> But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.



## The Charge

At the time of a man's ordination to office, there is to be declared a charge over him in front of the congregation, even as Moses laid his hands upon Joshua.

### **Numbers 27:18-19**

- <sup>18</sup> And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him;
- <sup>19</sup> And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight.



## The Charge

By the charge given him, Timothy knew how to war a good warfare.

### **1 Timothy 1:18**

<sup>18</sup> This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;



## The Charge

The charge that Paul gave to Timothy is appropriate for every church leader today:

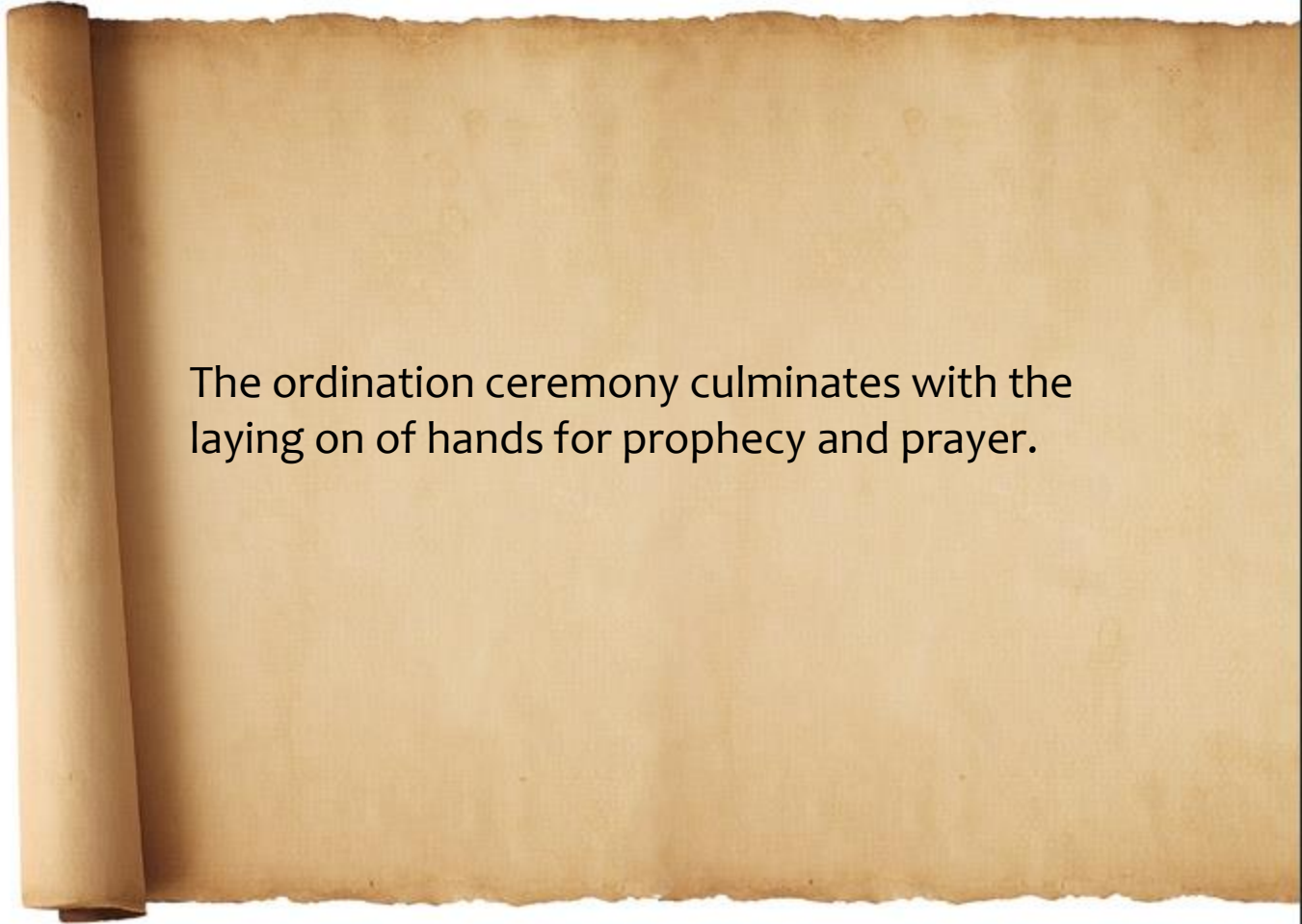
### **2 Timothy 4:1-2, 5**

- <sup>1</sup> I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;
- <sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
- <sup>5</sup> But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.



## 1 Timothy 6:11-16

- <sup>11</sup> ... follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.
- <sup>12</sup> Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.
- <sup>13</sup> I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;
- <sup>14</sup> That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:
- <sup>15</sup> Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;
- <sup>16</sup> Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

A scroll of aged, light brown parchment is shown, partially unrolled from the left. The parchment has a textured, slightly mottled appearance with some darker spots. The text is centered on the unrolled portion of the scroll.

The ordination ceremony culminates with the laying on of hands for prophecy and prayer.





[wtwh.org](http://wtwh.org)