

Summary

1 Timothy 3 ends with some of the most beautiful, exhilarating God-talk in all of Paul's letters. However, the passage begins with a teaching about leadership that we will almost certainly find off-putting. What might Paul's words tell us about God's invitation to have our lives shattered and re-made by an encounter with Jesus? And what might he teach us about the "beautiful work" that leaders in God's church can do to help us along the way?

Questions

1. What comes to mind when you consider the phrase "The Beautiful Work" or "noble" relating to church leadership?
2. Thinking about the virtues vs vices list, which resonates with you? Are there ones that you find troubling or have questions about?
3. Michael says "The household of God is the church of the living God, and the backbone and support of the truth.... the church that lives out godliness...makes the truth of God encounterable in its neighbourhood. That's why godliness matters." What does godliness mean to you?
4. As we "strive after godliness", what do you sense the Spirit of God saying to you?