



GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
AT CASTLEWOODS

ORDER OF WORSHIP
November 5th, 2023

MORNING WORSHIP

Thomas Winn — Elder/Pastor

- The Prelude Prepare your heart for worship
- The Call to Worship Chris Kimbrell
- Hymn "We Praise Thee O God, Our Redeemer"
- The Prayer of Confession and Praise Jason Price
- Hymn "Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ"
- Hymn "Man of Sorrows"
- The Reading of the Word — *Ezekiel 33:1-20* Dirk de Waal
- Hymn "Be Thou My Vision"
- The Interlude Instrumentalists
- The Sermon — *"Qualifications of Pastor/Elder" (1 Timothy 3:1-7)* Pastor Winn
- The Observance of The Lord's Supper
- Hymn "Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners"
- The Benediction Dirk de Waal
- The Postlude

AFTERNOON WORSHIP

Business Meeting



COMMENTARY

R.C. Sproul

In his letter to Titus, Paul often focuses on good works and exemplary behavior along with a concern for the opinion of outsiders. The apostle makes this plain in 2:1–10 when he discusses the behavior of ordained and lay Christians alike. But his concern for such things is also clear in his listing of qualifications for the office of elder in 1:5–9. The qualities Paul lists here are largely identical to those given in 1 Timothy 3:1–7. As in his letter to Timothy, the character traits Paul identifies in Titus are outwardly visible and were prized in the culture of his day. In addition to being in accord with godliness, these behaviors would commend the church to the world and enable the elders to gain a hearing in the wider society. Even in this day of lawlessness, non-Christians still esteem such righteous deeds, which help demonstrate the new life that the gospel brings. Our emphasis today will be on those characteristics for eldership we passed over when we studied 1 Timothy 3:1–7. First we see that an overseer or elder should not be a “drunkard” (Titus 1:7). Alcoholism was a problem on Crete, and those who do not live sober lives are not permitted to lead God’s people. This is not a prohibition against drinking alcohol, only its abuse (Prov. 23:20–21). A potential elder will not be an addict, for if he cannot control himself, he cannot lovingly guide the flock of God. A church leader, Matthew Henry writes,

must “have power over his appetite and affections.” Evidence of self-control, one of the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23), is a broad heading under which many of the elder’s requirements fall. In this category we may include the prohibition of greedy teachers (Titus 1:7). Christian leaders are permitted, even encouraged, to seek their living from the gospel ministry, but they are never allowed to view the gospel solely as a means for financial gain (1 Tim. 5:17–18; 6:2b–5). Modern evangelists who enrich themselves by making false promises are examples of men who never should have been ordained. Above all, Titus 1:5–9 says an elder must be a lover of good, one who thinks on and practices that which is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and praiseworthy (Phil. 4:8). May this be true of all of us as well.

Coram Deo: The vices Paul mentions in today’s passage are obviously prohibited for any Christian. One of the most difficult to overcome is self-indulgence, for our culture does little to encourage self-control. Do you bear this fruit of the Spirit in your life? There is grace for those times when we are not self-controlled, and there is renewal through repentance, but the evidence of it is seen in the endeavor to control one’s passions by the help of God’s Spirit.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Today's Nursery Volunteers

November 5th
<i>Morning</i> Katie Crocker, Laurie Pace, & Claire Shores
<i>Evening/Afternoon</i> Mary Price & Katherine Ranck
<i>Wednesday - November 8th</i> Dacia Long & Bethany Wallace

Today's Sound Operator - Jason Price



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Today we will observe the Lord's Supper during our afternoon service.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Today we will have our fellowship meal immediately following the morning service.

BUSINESS MEETING

Today we will have our quarterly business meeting immediately following the fellowship meal.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our OCC packing party will be this afternoon. Please bring your items to pack and a note with your child's information (name, age, address, fun facts about themselves). We will meet during the evangelistic outreach.

EVANGELISTIC OUTREACH

During our evangelistic outreach today, we will be calling individuals who made a decision at the "Go Tell Crusade". Please join us, after the business meeting, in the Fellowship Hall for instructions in how we will accomplish this.

CHURCH CLEANING DAY

There will be a Ladies' Cleaning Day on November 10th and 11th at 9:30 am for a deep cleaning of the church facilities. If you are able to help please see Bridgette Kimbrell or Dumi Thakkar to sign up. They will be meeting on Friday and if unable to finish all the duties will meet again on Saturday.

