

ANALYSIS:

1. What is true of the man who desires the office of a bishop?

2. Which of the qualifications of a bishop have to do with his family life?

3. Which qualifications for a bishop protect a man from the snares of the devil? _____

4. What rewards come to the man who has used the office of deacon well? _____

5. What are the various things Paul says are true of a local church?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Verse 16 presents basic yet glorious divine revelation of previously hidden truth which transcends our full comprehension. The goal is godliness; restoring redeemed sinners to a state of godliness where man is united with Christ and enabled to fellowship with and worship his Creator. It centers in Christ! [1] His incarnation -- God manifest in the flesh (Jn 1:1, 18), [2] His resurrection by the power of the Holy Spirit proving true all His claims (Rom 1:4), [3] His post-resurrection appearances witnessed by angels (Mt 28:2-7), [4] His gospel -- preached to the Gentiles (Gal 1:6), [5] His church and body -- constituted by those who believe on His name (Rom 12:5), [6] His ascension -- received back to glory (Acts 1:9-11). Whether these words were part of an early Christian hymn or confession of faith matters little, they are great because they involve God's gracious purpose in Christ to redeem the elect to eternal glory.

Let us look for the Lord Jesus Christ in scripture every time we read it and hear it preached. "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me," said our Lord (John 5:39).

HELP:

1. He desires a good work (v 1).
2. He is to be the husband of one wife, given to hospitality, one ruling well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity (vs 2-5).
3. The bishop is not to be a novice, and he must have a good report of them which are without (vs 6-7).
4. That man earns a good degree (rank or standing), and great boldness in the faith (v 13).
5. It is the house of God, the church of the Living God, the pillar and ground of the truth (v 15).