

Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022  
Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm  
Website: [www.sovereignhopebpc.org](http://www.sovereignhopebpc.org)  
Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / [jacksin710@gmail.com](mailto:jacksin710@gmail.com)  
Elder Loke Tat Luen: [tiloke822@gmail.com](mailto:tiloke822@gmail.com)

## The Search for Faithful Stewards in the Work of the Lord

Throughout biblical times and the history of the church, God uses men to fulfill important roles in His sovereign, eternal plan for His people (though they are unworthy). Many times in the Old Testament, God has been pictured as seeking men to fulfill the duties He has designed for them:

*“The LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart...”* (1 Sam 13:14).

*“Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it”* (Jer 5:1).

*“And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none”* (Ezek 22:30).

These verses and many other similar ones indicate the importance of God's people serving in the kingdom of God. There is a lack of and discernible absence of men who *“stand in the gap”*. Today's churches need godly men who are **God-fearing caring Stewards, effective Teachers of the Word, and Christ-centred Servants.**

### God-Fearing, Caring Stewards

Leadership in the local church is a role that God has ordained for men. Throughout biblical history, we see the hand of God upon godly men in their various roles. In the absence of good men, God has used ladies before (eg. Deborah to Barak) but it was an exception rather than the rule. There is a rightful place for everyone to serve in the church, including women. The church upholds the scriptural standard of male leadership in the church, supported by the edifying service of godly women too who serve God in other capacities.

Today, few men are stepping up to take the reins of the church and steer it in a godly direction. Christian men today need to hear the words of 1 Timothy 3:1 more than ever before: *“This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.”* (That verse refers specifically to the office of overseer or teaching or ruling elder or pastor or preacher).

Paul began the verse by saying that what followed *“is a true saying.”* He used those same words four other times in the Pastoral Epistles (1 Tim 1:15; 4:9; 2



Tim 2:11; Tit 3:8), and each time they introduced sayings that were probably quoted commonly among the Christians.

In four *Ls*, the man is to **Lead, Labour, Listen** and **Love in the fear of God**. The man is to take leadership in both the home and the church. But often, he may fail to do it. Some wives and ladies have shared that they are pushed into many important decisions because the men who are supposed to make them have taken a back-seat. That is unhealthy and unbiblical. Men need to take responsibility and dare to learn to lead; and pray and trust God to lead them first. But **men are to be humble and self-effacing stewards, and prudent and discerning in sound doctrine in our ministry**. We are to show genuine care and concern for those under our care, be it our children, the Bible Study groups, the Sunday School, the fellowship groups or the shepherding of the flock of God (1 Pet 5:1–3). We are to be instructors as well as doers of God's work and Word (Jas 1:22).



**Men are also to labour in that we are to provide for our families and, in some sense, support the ministry of the Church with responsible stewardship of our time, talent and treasure.** The man cannot be indolent or ill-equipped. He is to be learned and be ready for any good work. He is to be the prime mover in the church in all its ministries. If the Lord has called him to be the pastor, elder or deacon, he is to be responsible to take it up and to serve by His grace, and to be accountable to the Lord for the ministries/church under his charge.

Paul bolstered his encouragement for men to desire roles of leadership by saying, *“he desireth a good work.”* Some readers may even wonder why Paul would encourage men to seek leadership in the church.

The answer lies in the cultural situation of Paul's day and in the biblical descriptions of a leader's role. First, leadership in the early church was hardly a glamorous position; persecution of Christians was rampant, and often the leaders were the first to be singled out for it by the Jewish and Roman authorities (Acts 12:1–3). Second, those men who held leadership positions were commanded by Jesus Christ Himself to be servants of all (Mark 9:35; Luke 22:24–27). They were required to be caring leaders and be a faithful and sacrificial shepherd of the flock (1 Peter 5:1–3). **It was that kind of leadership that Paul was encouraging each man to desire, because God sovereignly calls and qualifies some to serve Him for the spiritual well-being of the church.**

**We need to pray carefully and earnestly about the joy and duty of serving the Lord in His church and support those who do. Are you discovering and developing your God given talents and skills in your life with the hope that God would use them for His glory in a local body of believers?** We need to be ready and willing to be the man (or woman) that God is seeking to fulfill this crucial role, in the church and family to edify others and to the glory of the Lord.

## Effective Teachers of the Word

Men are to search and study the Scriptures themselves and to be ready or equipped to teach the Word. 2 Tim 2:15 is a good challenge for all men to follow: *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Tim 2:15)

There is often a sad lack of effective male teachers in the church from the pulpit to the Sunday School, Fellowships, Bible studies, Prayer meetings, missions work, and other ministries as well. **Christian men must prayerfully make a conscious effort to equip themselves to read, study, meditate and apply God’s Word and then to be able to teach sound doctrine to others also.**

We need more Timothy’s and Titus’s around today to carry on the didactic functions of effective teaching and preaching of God’s Word, to build up the flock of God. These ministries allow us to reach people more effectively for Christ. This is the will of God concerning us.

The role of teaching the Word of God to the whole body of God from the pulpit is also one that has been reserved primarily for men (and women can be teaching women and children). God’s plan includes women communicating the principles of His Word to children and other women (Prov 1:8; Tit 2:3–5), and He has ordained that men alone should feed the whole flock of God when it gathers (1 Tim 2:12–14; 1 Cor 14:34–35). Unfortunately, as in the arena of church leadership, there is often a lack of men willing and able to fulfill this role. **Churches need to encourage God-fearing men to pray and take up biblical duties and roles responsibly, and the need for men to discover and develop their God given skills and teaching abilities, and use them.**

A tremendous need exists for more men to be equipped to serve God effectively by the teaching of His Word in discipleship. We often do not have enough qualified men to teach in Bible studies, Fellowship, Sunday School and other ministries effectively. Certainly, every church needs to emphasise the need for sound biblical training and to help others to be disciples or teachers of the word one day as the Lord leads.



Every man in the church should be intentionally developing and practicing skills, because every man is at least a husband or potential husband or father one day (God willing), and **God has commanded husbands to be teachers in the home** (Deut 6:6–7; Eph 5:25–27; 6:4). The key to doing that lies in **disciplined, personal Bible study, when we learn profound truths from God’s Word both attentive listening from the pulpit and reading books personally and applying them in our own lives.** Then a desire will grow to share them with others. It is when the Word of Christ dwells in us richly that we will find ourselves able to teach and admonish others (Col 3:16).

## Christ-Centred Servants

Although every member of the body of Christ is commanded to be a godly example that leads others to grow in Christ, the men of the church are especially commissioned to serve others in this way. Being an example or positive model

is such an integral part of effective stewardship and service (1 Pet 5:3; 2 Thes 3:6–7) that those roles cannot be fulfilled effectively without it. Also, husbands are called by God to relate to their wives in a way that typifies the Great Example, Jesus Christ, to the Church (Eph 5:25–27).

1 Tim 3:2–13 and Tit 1:6–9 contain lists of character traits that are true of a



godly man. The primary purpose of those lists is to identify which men may serve in the church offices of elder and/or deacon, but a secondary purpose is to challenge every man in the church to cultivate those traits in his life. We know that because Paul encourages any man who desires the church offices (1 Tim 3:1, 13). Moreover, none of the qualifications in the lists is too high for any man to attain through God's gracious enabling. The characteristics listed are those which should be true of

every Christian man, and Paul is saying that we need to prayerfully seek God for leaders with the right attributes.

The following are the twenty qualities with regards to elders and deacons, of the local church. This is a brief explanation of each one, designed to help men evaluate the example they are to others in the church.

1. **Blameless** (1 Tim 3:2). Stewards are to have a clear conscience before God and a good witness that is above reproach. God is the ultimate true Judge of all hearts.
2. **Husband of one wife** (1 Tim 3:2). They are to be one-woman men and faithful to their spouses. Fidelity at home begets fidelity to God in the church.
3. **Vigilant** (1 Tim 3:2). They are to be spiritually stable, watchful and alert, having a clear, biblical perspective of life and are not to be indolent or indifferent.
4. **Sober** (1 Tim 3:2). Sometimes that word is translated “sober-minded” or “prudent.” It means they know their priorities and are wise and discreet in their ways.
5. **Of good behaviour** (1 Tim 3:2). Leaders are to have such well-ordered lives that they are respected and are good examples for others to follow.
6. **Given to hospitality** (1 Tim 3:2). They are to love strangers, opening their homes for hospitality ministry to those in need and be a blessing to others.
7. **Apt to teach** (1 Tim 3:2). That phrase is translated from the single Greek word, *didaktikos*. It is not used only to speak of the gift of teaching or the office of a teacher. It will be good if he can be an effective Bible teacher. He must be teachable as well as able to communicate biblical truths to others. The word conveys not only the dynamics of his teaching but also sensitivity to other people. He teaches with a meek and gentle spirit. In any case, the servant of the Lord should seek to study the Word of God, do it and teach it well.
8. **Temperate** (Tit 1:8). Leaders are not to be addicted to alcohol or drugs or craving of any kind. They need to be moderate and be well disciplined.
9. **Not self-willed** (Tit 1:7). They should not be self-centered. A church cannot have people in leadership who are concerned only about themselves. The important thing about church leaders is that they be genuinely concerned for the people they are shepherding and the cause of the gospel.

10. **Not soon angry** (Tit 1:7). Those in leadership cannot have a volatile temperament; they must be patient and have a good disposition, not easily agitated or provoked.
11. **No striker** (Tit 1:7). This literally means “not a physical fighter.” A church does not need someone in leadership who is quarrelsome and solves problems with his fists.
12. **Not a brawler** (1 Tim 3:3). This attitude corresponds to the physical reaction. A contentious person who is violent or likes to argue all the time is unsuitable to serve God.
13. **Patient** (1 Tim 3:3). This is the quality of longsuffering or an enduring spirit which is one of the facets of the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal 5: 22,23)
14. **Not covetous** (1 Tim 3:3). Church leaders should be free from the greed of money or fame or other material or intangible things. A worldly-minded person disqualifies himself.
15. **Ruleth well his own house** (1 Tim 3:4). Church leaders are required to lead and keep their children and spouse under control with dignity, and be the godly head of the covenant home.
16. **Have a good report of them that are without** (1 Tim 3:7). What does the world think of the servant of the Lord as he interacts with the unsaved? A life of spiritual uprightness is necessary for the advancement of the gospel.
17. **Lover of good men** (Tit 1:8). They should have genuine affection for others with the sincerity of heart.
18. **Just** (Tit 1:8). Church leaders are to be fair and equitable, and not prejudiced against any.
19. **Holy** (Tit 1:8). They are to be consecrated and sanctified in their lives and committed to the edifying service of the Lord in the church.
20. **Not a novice** (1 Tim 3:6). They are to be spiritually mature and not a newcomer in the faith.

*(Expanded from Wayne Mack and David Swavely, Life in My Father's House [New Jersey: P & R Publishing, 1996], 73–77)*

## **Conclusion**

**The role of every disciple is to be a responsible steward of God, faithful and God-fearing in the local church.** The Lord can use those who are set apart for him in the ministry that He calls them to according to His will. Stewardship is to be exercised in prudence and with a good and caring disposition, in both the church and the home, for both man and women. **We are to support them in our prayers as they serve the Lord. Christians are to be reliable and accountable stewards to God ready to serve our Master in His church** and fulfil our God-given roles with the strength and wisdom He provides, relying on the Lord for his strength and direction always. Remember Psalm 127:1 which says, *“Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.”*

Jack Sin

## Sharing from Brethren in Myanmar and Brunei

”

Good to hear that your church is able to donate an ambulance for the Falam Rescue Team. That will be a big help for them.

Thanks again for your prayers and support.

In Christ,  
Rev David Khobal  
Principal  
Myanmar Theological Seminary

”



I am really thankful and praise God for you and your church members' donating the ambulance.

I'm appreciative of all you've done for my people, Falam. My father said to me that this will be very helpful for them because of when the government authority have the curfew period and also they can supply the oxygen tanks immediately to the sick persons. May God bless you to extend His Kingdom

Member of Biblical Presbyterian Church  
Myanmar

The ambulance is being used to deliver oxygen cylinders to patients, refill oxygen, send patients to hospitals and clinics and bodies to the cemetery. Since purchase, it has been constantly used without stop.

The ambulance also goes beyond Yangon as the infection rate is now higher in the rural areas.....an update from Rev Salai



Thank God for SHBPC, Pastor Rev Jack, for the labour of love in God's work through your church missions and caring ministry. Your support for the Myanmar Evangel BPC will not be in vain and surely God will continue to bless SHBPC and Myanmar Evangel BPC abundantly. Have been committing pastor Jeremy to the Lord in prayers.

Johnny Teoh  
Leader, Brunei Reformed Church

Face masks, PPE, hand sanitizers, surgical gowns, Rice, Oil, Eggs distributed by Preacher Jeremy of Myanmar Evangel BPC to his church members.



## Memory Verse

2 *Tim 4:8* Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

## Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor speaks today on "***Perseverance in the Ministry (2 Tim 4:6-10)***", the quarterly theme on "Finishing Well the Race of Life - The Epistle of 2 Timothy".
3. Pastor speaks next Sunday on "***Faithful Co-workers Labouring Together (2 Tim 4:11-22)***".
4. The **Annual Congregation Meeting cum Elections** will be held on **today 29 Aug 2021, 11.45am**. **All members are to attend.**
5. Sunday School classes continues next Sunday after worship service:
  - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
  - New Testament Survey – Dn Choo Siang/Joseph
  - Studies in Numbers – Dr Kwong Leen
6. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren.
7. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The Aug prayer list is available in church.
8. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class that meets on the first Friday of each month in church on the study of 2 Samuel will next meet on **this Friday 3 Sep 2021 at 7.30pm**.
9. The Pandemic book can be purchased through Dn Yue Kay (Hp: +65 97450311) or via email at [sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com](mailto:sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com).
10. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
11. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
  - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
  - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
  - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

\*\*\*\*\*