



## Welcome!

Welcome to the "Dig Deep" Bible studies. These studies are based on the message series, "Inside the Pastor's Mind," a study on the New Testament book of 1 Timothy. These short Bible studies are meant to help you take Sunday's message home and reflect on it throughout the week and apply it to your daily life. If you missed a message, or want to listen to it again, go to [www.fishersoffamily.org](http://www.fishersoffamily.org) and click on the "Media" link and download the message audio. We pray that you are blessed in your study of Scripture!

### Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13

In verse 1, Paul talks about those who are overseers or pastors as having a "noble task." The New Testament Greek behind this phrase is *kalou ergou*, which means "good work" or "good job." What do you think constitutes a good job or career? Do you have to be a professional pastor to have a *kalou ergou* (see Colossians 3:23)?

Pastor Zach mentioned in his message that even though Paul talked about the pastoral ministry as a *kalou ergou*, he himself did not necessarily have good experiences as a pastor. Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 to help you recall some of Paul's bitterest experiences. If you were faced with such challenges in your job, do you think that you would remain there? What do you think got Paul through these challenging times (see 2 Corinthians 1:1 for a hint, noting especially the manner by which Paul became an apostle)? According to Scripture, is the "goodness" of your job based on your external circumstances? On what is the goodness based? What comfort does this give you when face tough times at work?

Because we have been given a *kalou ergou*, we are expected to use it responsibly and with integrity as Paul outlines in verses 2-7. What on this list would probably apply only to professional pastoral ministry? What would apply to all careers? Are there any of these areas in which you fall short?

In verse 2, Paul writes that "the overseer must be above reproach." Notice the prepositions in this verse: there is an *over*-seer who is to be *above* reproach. In order to be a pastor, the prepositions must match. In other words, one cannot be an *over*-seer while living *under* sin. The results of such mismatched prepositions can be disastrous. Jim Bakker, Ted Haggard, Jimmy Swaggart: all of these men mismatched their prepositions and had to resign from professional ministry. They "fell into disgrace," as Paul says in verse 7. Are there any areas in your life where you are mismatching your prepositions – where you have an *over*-seer position at work or in your community while secretly living *under* sin? What steps can you take to match up your prepositions and do your work with integrity?

In order to do your *kalou ergou*, with integrity, Pastor Zach mentioned two indispensable practices, drawn from verse 13. First, we are to serve. Read verses 8-12. Notice that Paul talks to deacons here and gives them a list of qualifications which are similar to those which he gives overseers. In New Testament Greek, the word for "deacon" is *diaknonos* which literally means "servant." In the work of ministry, being a servant is paramount. Is the corporate world normally about serving others or being served? What things can you do to serve others selflessly at your place of employment?

The second thing that is indispensable to doing our jobs with integrity is that we stand in our faith in Jesus Christ. Pastor Zach ended his message considering three ways that we can take a stand in our faith:

- We can stand in our faith *morally*. We can conduct ourselves in a way that is above reproach at the office.
- We can stand in our faith *personally*. When things are difficult at the office, we can trust in the will of God and the grace of Christ to see us through.
- We can stand in our faith *evangelically*. We can tell others around the office about our faith in Jesus Christ.

Name some practical things we can do to stand in our faith in each of these areas, paying special attention to how we can stand in our faith evangelically.