



AIM HIGH

February 28, 2010

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REPEATED

This Sunday, March 7, will be a very important day for Olivet. Last December the deacon body noted the need to elect three new deacons to serve Olivet. That election will take place Sunday.

In last week's Newsletter, I repeated the verses that deal with Deacon election. I'm going to do something I rarely do. I'm going to copy portions of the blurb that the Holman Bible Dictionary has on Deacons.

"The term 'deacon' is derived from the Greek word *diakonos* which is usually translated 'servant' or 'minister.' Although Philippians 1:1 and 1 Timothy 3 clearly indicate that the office of deacon existed in New Testament times, no explicit Bible reference describes the duties of deacons or refers to the origin of the office. In Philippians 1:1 and in numerous references in early Christian literature outside the New Testament, bishops and/or elders and deacons are mentioned together, with deacons mentioned last. Because of this order, and because of the natural connotations of the word *diakonos*, most interpreters believe that deacons, from the beginning, served as assistants of the church leaders. Deacons continued to fill an important role in the ministry of the early church, serving the needs of the poor, assisting in baptism and the Lord's Supper, and performing other practical ministerial tasks.

The nature of the qualifications of Deacons outlined in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 perhaps indicates the function of deacons in the New Testament period. In most respects, the qualifications of deacons mirror those of bishops (the leaders of the churches). The high standards of morality and character expected of both demonstrates the church's serious regard for the offices and the importance of their functions. The requirements that deacons must have a clear understanding of the faith (1 Tim 3:9) and that their faithfulness already be proven (1 Tim 3:10) indicate that their duties consisted of more than menial chores. 1 Tim 3:8 may be evidence that the work of the deacons brought them into close contact with the everyday lives of the church members, as would occur in visiting the sick and ministering to the other physical needs of fellow Christians. Such service would both give them greater knowledge of the items for gossip and allow them greater opportunity to spread such gossip, thus making it crucial that they should not be prone to talebearing. The requirement that deacons not be greedy may indicate they were responsible for collecting and distributing church funds.

The tasks the original 7 deacons performed seem to be principal functions of deacons. The 7 were set apart for their task in a ceremony in which the apostles "laid their hands on them" (Acts 6:6). Other than this passage, the New Testament does not mention ordination of deacons."

Be in serious prayer over this issue. This is not something to be taken lightly.



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Class Directory

Copies of the new Class Directory are available on the desk in the classroom.,.

For those of you who are new and haven't been included, if you'll let me know, I'll see that you get put in. It's easy to insert new pages.

Reminder

How are you doing at reading through the Bible in a year? How can you say you believe the Bible if you haven't read it?

Prayer List

- The Deacon election
- Barbara's parents as they adjust to the retirement facility
- Rich Lembke – recovery from back surgery
- Brandi Lembke – traveling and family issues.
- Thayer family in the loss of their wife and mother Ann
- Selph's son – baby due soon
- Bill F (Larry Shope's uncle) – health issues
- Claudia S (Cheryl Hillsberry's aunt) – health issues
- Barbara's niece, Holly - high risk pregnancy
- Dunaway family (Pickerel)
- Theresa Morrow – unspoken
- Donna Cook's sister fell
- Larry Cook
- Gerald's sister Karen – falling
- Don C - health issues (Johnson)
- Monet (Greg Hitchcock's friend) – marriage and family issues
- Ginger Morrow – health issues

PRAISE NOTES

Linda Miller is back at church

SEE YOU SUNDAY???