

THE Rock COMMUNITY CHURCH

1 Timothy 5:17-25

“Double Honor”

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Anaheim Hills, CA | RockCC.com

21:32

Do you ever pause in the middle of your day just to think about how much God loves you? Do you? Just stop and think. He created you. He hears you. He sees you. He knows you. He blesses you. And he died for you. Almighty God knows us, but our God is so awesome and so almighty that we struggle to comprehend Him.

22:04

And yet at the same time, our Heavenly Father is so close to us that we can see Him and we can know Him in a word of Scripture or through the people that God puts in our lives. Our passage today will focus our attention on some very specific people God does put into our lives to lead us and guide us and help us grow in our faith and our knowledge and our relationship with the Lord.

22:31

And we're going to see how God wants us to care and love the people that God sends to care and love us. We pray with me, please. Lord, what a blessing this is just to open your word of truth because every time we open your word, we know.

22:50

We know for a fact that we are getting the truth right from your heart to ours. So please, Father, help us right now clear away any other distracting thoughts because that's not nearly as important as us just taking this time together now to listen to your voice through your word.

23:07

Please give us ears to hear and hearts to receive your truth into our lives. We pray in Jesus' name, amen. Our passage is 1 Timothy chapter 5 verses 17 to 25. And this is a really unique place in God's word because we're going to see something that is very important to God that is easy for us to overlook.

23:33

In fact, this negligence was a problem at Timothy's church in Ephesus, and this is a problem in churches today. What's the problem? Well, the problem is failing to take proper care of our pastors and our elders.

23:53

Okay? Just so happens, I'm a pastor and an elder. So you may be sitting there thinking, okay, this is going to be a very self-serving message today. I assure you it will not because this is not a self-serving passage.

24:13

This is a God-serving passage, and it, I promise you, it is so loaded with valuable insight and blessing for all of us. So let's read it together. 1 Timothy 5:17-25. Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

24:34

For the Scripture says, You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain, and the laborer deserves his wages. Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

24:46

As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all so that the rest may stand in fear. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels, I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality. Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure. No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.

25:15

The sins of some people are conspicuous going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later. So also good works are conspicuous, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden. The Apostle Paul put Pastor Timothy in charge of the church at Ephesus because that church needed godly leadership.

25:38

All churches do. And in our passage, Paul is going to give Timothy and the church instructions for how their godly leaders should be respected, protected, corrected, and selected. Let's go to verse 17.

25:57

We're going to spend a little more time on verse 17, but I promise you, we're going to get out on time. So don't worry when you're here for a while. Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

26:12

As we've seen many times in our study of 1 Timothy, that the words elder, pastor, overseer are used interchangeably to describe the same person. So I'm just going to use the word pastor today because that's the word we use the most at RockCC.

26:27

Paul begins with such a simple statement, but it comes loaded with meaning. He says, let the elders or pastors who rule. Let me stop right there with just that word "rule" because I have a question for you.

26:38

What comes into your mind when you see the word "rule"? What do you picture when you see that word "rule"? Do you picture a king on a throne, kind of like we saw with King Charles coronation a few weeks ago?

26:53

Is that what you picture? Well, the biblical picture of a ruling pastor is definitely not a king on a throne. It's a picture of a servant on his knees before the King of kings and Lord of lords. A pastor is called to be a church leader who has dedicated and devoted his life to being obedient and to follow Jesus who is the head of the church.

27:22

So we know that in the world, rulers have the tendency to abuse their power for selfish reasons. But a pastor is a ruler that has a higher or we could say a lower calling. Let's look at what Jesus said in Matthew chapter 20 verses 25 to 28.

27:40

But Jesus called them, that means his disciples, to him and said, you know that the rulers of the Gentiles lorded over them and their great ones exercised authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant and whoever would be first among you must be your slave. Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.

28:07

Pastors are called to lead Jesus' church, Jesus' way, which means pastors come to serve, not be served. And pastors come to give or devote their lives to serving the Lord and his church not to serve their own interests.

28:24

So this is really important. This is why we're talking about this. So this raises the key question from our passage. Since, since, follow me here, this is really great, since pastors are called by God to selflessly look out for the needs of the church, who does God call to selflessly look out for the needs of the pastors?

28:50

Isn't that interesting? It's a great question. Well, God gives that all important calling and that responsibility to you and to me and to every member of the congregation in Jesus' church. This is a stunningly beautiful picture of the circle of care that God has ordained for his church.

29:16

God appoints pastors to love and care for the congregation, and then God appoints the congregation to love and care for their pastors. Let's go back to verse 17. We're going to go one more word. Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

29:40

Paul expects pastors to rule well. Later in our passage, Paul will address pastors that do not rule well. So question becomes, how do pastors rule or lead well? What does that mean? How do you know if your pastor is leading well?

29:58

Pastors lead well by faithfully guiding and teaching the congregation to follow Jesus well. Pastors lead well by faithfully guiding and teaching the congregation to follow Jesus well day after day, week after week, year after year. Paul says pastors like this are worthy. That means they are deserving of something very important.

30:28

What does the passage say? Worthy of double honor. Okay. What is double honor? Does that mean we're supposed to give the pastor two fist bumps at the end of a good message instead of just one? Like here's a double, you know?

30:45

Is that what it means? Not exactly. The Greek word for double surprisingly means double. It means twice the amount, twofold, twice the honor. The Greek word for honor means deep respect, but deep respect shown in two tangible, visible ways.

31:12

One, an attitude of loving and joyful submission to the pastor's authority. And the second is an attitude of financial generosity for the pastor's faithful work. Both things. Let's look at a couple of passages in Scripture that deal with the honoring part.

31:34

First Thessalonians 5:12-13. We ask you brothers to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

31:51

You notice how verse 12 describes the pastor's role as someone who labors. The word labor means works very hard. Leading a church as a pastor is so wonderful. It is so amazingly beautiful, so fulfilling, so wonderfully rewarding.

32:09

And yet, the word of God is true. It is a difficult, it is a challenging, hard job. So verse 13 says the congregation should respect or esteem their pastors, not a little bit, but very highly. And not grudgingly, but with a whole lot of love.

32:28

Why? Why? Because the congregation should be grateful to God for sending the pastors to do the work that the pastors do for the congregation. It's a way that we show our gratitude to God. I have to confess, I have been thinking about you for weeks and weeks as I've been preparing this message.

32:54

Because when I get to this part, I struggle to find the words to tell you how much your loving prayers for your pastors and your loving words of encouragement mean. I can promise you your love does more to strengthen us than you will ever know.

33:17

So grateful for that. Thank you. God bless you for that. I wanted to tell you that. I've been waiting to tell you that for weeks. Alright, let's look at Hebrews chapter 13 verse 17. It says, obey your leaders and submit to them for they are keeping watch over your souls as those who will have to give an account.

33:38

Let them do this with joy, not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. Okay, the words obey and submit are not popular words in our vocabulary, but they sure are important words to God. This passage is a command from God for us to obey and submit to the spiritual leaders he places over us. And we are commanded to do that with joy, not groaning. Do you know what groaning means? It means complaining.

34:16

Uh -oh. Uh -oh, right, come on, all of us. We are human nature. We're just naturally born good at complaining about anything or everything, right? Nobody ever, nobody ever has to learn how to complain.

34:33

Nobody ever has to go to school, take a class, or read a book to learn how to grumble, right? Okay, that's in our nature. But yet we... Here we have this command of God who

says, don't respond to your church leaders with anything but a joyful attitude, no complaining.

34:56

God expects us to respond to church leadership with joy in our hearts, not with complaints on our lips. If we choose to complain, you know, sometimes we just can't help it. If we choose to complain, then God has warned us in advance, even though we feel like we have to complain, God is saying there will be no benefit, no advantage to you whatsoever.

35:19

Why? Because nothing good ever comes from disobeying God. If you're taking notes, that would be a note I would write down, because I need to remember that in every situation I face in life, and I think we all do.

35:37

Nothing good ever comes from disobeying God. Let's go back to 1 Timothy 5:17. We're not quite done with this verse yet. Let the elders who will well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching, came back to the word double honor, because we've talked about joyful submission to pastoral authority, but now we need to talk about the other part, which is to be generous with financial compensation.

36:08

All pastors, so let's track with this for a minute. Scripture teaches us that all pastors are worthy of financial compensation, yet not all pastors require financial compensation. All are deserving, but not all require it.

36:26

At RockCC, we have five pastors. Three of us have full -time jobs outside of the church, and those full -time jobs provide our income, so we do not require and we do not receive any financial compensation.

36:43

That's a blessing from God. At RockCC, we have two absolutely amazing hard -working, devoted, dedicated, full -time staff pastors that do receive financial compensation. Okay, talking about money for a pastor can be an awkward subject, can't it?

37:08

However, however, this is the best part. When we turn to the word of God, it is not awkward at all. In fact, it is fascinating, and it is so encouraging. Let me show you what I mean. Do you remember the qualifications for a pastor? Let's turn back to one, just look at one passage in chapter three. These are the qualifications to be a pastor, all right? Not a drunkard, not violent, the gentle, not quarrelsome, and the fourth one, not a lover of money.

37:41

A lover of money is someone that has his eyes on your wallet, not on the Lord. A man that loves or goes into ministry to make money is disqualified to be a pastor of the church. However, let's think about this. However, pastors do need money to live on. They need money for themselves, they need money for their families. So what does God do? How does God address that? The word of God, this is what's so fascinating.

38:19

The word of God does not tell pastors how to get money. The word of God tells the church members how to give money to properly care for the pastors who are trusting God as they selflessly lead the church and teach the price of this word of God.

38:35

It's amazing. Let's go back one last time to verse 17. Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. Paul emphasizes preaching and teaching here because it is the primary responsibility of the pastor in Jesus' church.

38:55

In fact, a church is not a church unless there is a clear, correct preaching and teaching of God's word. Do we notice Paul's phrasing here? It's interesting. Paul chooses his words carefully through the power of the Holy Spirit.

39:08

Did we notice Paul did not say especially those who preach and teach? That's not what he said. Look, Paul said especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. That's a knowing head nod, Bruce. You know what that means.

39:21

The word labor means to work to the point of fatigue or exhaustion. The Greek word for labor emphasizes effort, giving it your all. So preaching and teaching the word of God is a real labor of love. So now Paul will quote two passages from God's word to help support his instructions for how we should properly compensate the hardworking pastors, especially those who labor, who work hard to the point of fatigue in presenting, teaching the word of God.

39:54

Let's look at verse 18. See, we're moving along now. I promise you we will. We're fine. Timing is great. Okay. For the scripture says, You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain and the labor deserves his wages.

40:09

Did Paul really just compare a pastor to an ox? He surely did. First, Paul quotes Moses from the book of Deuteronomy in the Old Testament. Let's see if Paul did his homework and quoted Moses correctly.

40:26

Deuteronomy 25:4 says, you shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain. Paul nailed it, or not surprised. Paul always did his homework. The point here is that in ancient times, the Gentiles often would put a muzzle on the oxen.

40:42

So the muzzle would prevent the oxen from eating, enjoying any of the grain or corn that he was working so hard to prepare for people to enjoy. But God says, even a beast of burden, like an ox or a pastor, deserves to be fairly, even generously compensated for their hard labor.

41:08

In 1 Corinthians chapter nine, Paul actually expands on this. Let's read this together. Paul writes, for it is written in the law of Moses, you shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain. Is it for oxen that God is concerned?

41:22

Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake because the plowmen should plow in hope and the thresher, threshold in hope of sharing in the crop. If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?

41:40

Paul is literally asking each one of us a very practical question that we need to think about. Since pastors work hard to share the priceless truth of God with us, what is that worth to us? What is it worth to you to be taught the priceless truth of God?

42:02

What is that worth? What money value would you put on that? That's what this question is asking. Let's move on to Galatians 6:6. Let the one who has taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. This verse gets more personal than the other verse because this verse does not address the whole congregation. This verse addresses the one, each one, each person in the congregation and it says, you are being taught.

42:34

You are being taught the truth of God that will bless you forever. That's a really long time. You're being taught the word of God that blesses you forever, so be sure to bless the teacher in return. Let's go back to verse 18.

42:52

For the scripture says, you shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain and the labor it deserves is wages. So first, Paul quoted Moses in the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy and now Paul quotes Jesus from the Gospel of Luke in the New Testament.

43:08

In Luke 10, Jesus sent out 72 disciples to go ahead of him to every village and place that Jesus was going to go. And Jesus, this is interesting, Jesus told his disciples not to take any money and not to even take any personal possessions.

43:23

Don't pack a bag, just go and God would provide for their needs through the people they would serve wherever they were gonna go. And let's look at chapter 10 verse 7 to what Jesus said. Jesus said, and remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide for the laborer deserves his wages.

43:42

Do not go from house to house. So here Paul is quoting the Lord Jesus to help us understand that staff pastors deserve their wages like every laborer, every worker does. We also need to see, the Lord points out, that wages are not gifts and wages are not optional.

44:06

Wages are required compensation for the work done. The word of God does not tell us how much to pay our pastors. There was not a table in the back, I looked. There was not a table in the back to tell us how to pay our pastors.

44:24

But the key principle, the clear key principle is for us to be as generous as possible within our means. And overworked and underpaid pastor is not being honored correctly in the eyes of God. I think we'll move on. In the next two verses, Paul gives us instructions now for how to protect and then even correct pastors. Let's read verses 19 and 20. Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

44:58

As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all so the rest may stand in fear. So Paul tells Timothy and the church not to listen to gossip and not to listen to unsubstantiated accusations of sin for a pastor, but at the same time, not to ignore real sin in a pastor's life.

45:21

So in other words, the church must not treat the pastor like he can do no right, and they must not treat the pastor like he can do no wrong. Paul gives clear instructions not to allow anyone to accuse a pastor of sin unless, unless there are two or three witnesses that can verify the sin.

45:41

It's important that we understand this means two or three eyewitnesses who can verify the sin. They've seen the sin, not two or three people who also heard the same gossip. That's a big difference.

45:53

You'd be surprised how much that comes up in a church. It's not two, hey, I heard that too. It's not that, it's two or three people that can verify the sin. Let's read some, I wanna share something with you that John Calvin wrote over 700 years ago.

46:08

It'll be on the screen and I'll read it to you. This is what he wrote about this passage. The more sincerely any pastor strives to further Christ's kingdom, the more fierce do the attacks upon him become.

46:22

And Satan makes most people, in fact, nearly everyone over credulous. The word credulous means ready to believe anything, okay? So Satan makes most people, in fact, nearly everyone, ready to believe anything so that without investigation they eagerly condemn their pastors whose good name they ought to be defending.

46:42

It is indeed a trick of Satan to estrange men from their ministers so as gradually to bring their teaching into contempt. In this way, not only is wrong done to innocent people whose reputation is undeservedly injured, but the authority of God's holy teaching is diminished. Wow.

47:05

Wow. When false accusations, gossip, are made against a pastor and then spread through a church, not only do really good people get hurt, but the pastor's preaching of the word of God is now tarnished, its tainted, and that is a huge loss for the entire church.

47:34

But sometimes pastors do sin. And when that happens, the pastor does not get preferential treatment. The pastor does not get a pass because all sin must always be dealt with according to God's word. So let's look at verse 20 one more time.

47:52

As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all so the rest may stand in fear. If a pastor continues in any kind of sin after being confronted by two or three witnesses, or if the pastor has committed a sin that disqualifies him from being a pastor, that pastor must be rebuke in front of the whole church.

48:16

Why rebuke the pastor in front of the whole church? Why not deal with this ugly business privately? Why make it so public? Well, Paul explains that a strong open rebuke creates a healthy, a healthy fear of sin among every pastor and every person in the church.

48:42

We see here that God takes sin very seriously. So should we all. Again, if you're taking notes, that's when I'd write down. Just because I sure need to remember it in every situation of life. This is a little sin. God takes every sin very seriously. So is this just Paul's opinion here? Are these just Paul's thoughts about church leadership, or is it much more than that?

49:16

Let's look at verse 21 again. Paul writes, in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels, I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality. Paul is commanding Timothy and the church and all of us to protect and correct pastors without prejudice and without favoritism. Paul's authority to give us his command is only backed by God and the Lord Jesus and every angel in heaven.

49:52

I have to share with you one more quote from John Calvin, just because he had something pretty bold to say about this that I don't think I could get away with saying, but he said it, so I'm gonna put it on the screen for you.

50:05

Okay? Here's what Calvin said. And indeed, the man who has not shaken out of his carelessness and laziness by the thought that the government of the church is conducted under the eye of God and his angels must be worse than stupid and have his heart harder than stone.

50:25

Yeah, I couldn't get away saying that, but I can put it on the screen. Something I think we all know, I hope we all know. This is our lovely, wonderful, phenomenal church family. It's great that we all take ownership in this church, but none of us own this church.

50:42

This isn't your church, this isn't my church. The pastors aren't in charge. It's the Lord Jesus that's in charge. This is God's church and God's telling us how to govern our church and we must obey God in everything we do at RockCC.

50:57

Amen. Okay, here's a little surprise for you, okay? Next we come to a verse that is going to address a very common sin that I would imagine we probably all commit without realizing it is a sin. Okay?

51:17

It is the sin of being in a hurry. What? How can a hurry be a sin? Isn't being in a hurry a must? How can that be a sin? Hurry is an attitude that comes from pride and trying to do too much. And in the context of our passage, hurry is the sin of taking matters in our own hands and rushing instead of trusting in God.

51:46

Let's read verse 22 together. Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure. The laying on of hands refers to that sacred, ceremony where hands are laid on a person to ordain him for pastoral ministry.

52:08

Now, think about this with me. We know Timothy's church was in desperate need of godly leadership, so there would be a huge temptation on Pastor Timothy to fast-track some guys. Let's just get them through the process.

52:22

Okay, you, you, you, you're pretty good. Let's go. You're now leaders. There would be a huge temptation to rush that process of pastoral selection. But Paul warns Timothy not to ordain someone without taking proper time to thoroughly investigate and verify the person's qualifications to lead Jesus' church.

52:41

Those are the qualifications we read together in chapter three a few weeks ago or a month ago, I guess. And Paul says, nor take part in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure. This means for Timothy and for us, keep, you must be above reproach.

52:57

You must be above reproach in the way you lead the church and in the way you lead your life. Keep yourself free from sin. How? How do we keep ourselves free from sin? By refusing to compromise in our obedience to God.

53:13

Refusing to compromise. Again, if you are taking notes, this is a big one. This is a note we all need, we all need to write down and I don't know, carry with us, look at it all the time for every situation we face in life.

53:29

We all need to refuse to be driven by fear. We need to refuse to be driven by hurry. We need to refuse to be driven by stress, by any wrong desire, by any selfish goal. We must not compromise in our obedience to God.

53:49

Comes down to that. Now as Paul writes these words to his dear friend Timothy, Paul now is going to add a very personal and tender note. Let's look at verse 23. No longer drink only water but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.

54:15

Now remember, this letter was written by Paul to Timothy for Timothy to read to the whole church. But now here we have this little parenthetical instruction that is likely for Timothy's eyes only. It's probably like, Timothy, don't read this part to the whole church.

54:30

Keep this for yourself. I don't know, I'm just using my imagination but it's a parenthetical thought. Now in verse, okay, speaking of using imagination, I'm not claiming this as a gift, something from the Holy Spirit here please.

54:41

This is just my thought process. But in verse 22, Paul told Timothy to keep himself pure. And now in this parenthesis he says, hey, drink only water. And I'm wondering if maybe keep yourself pure made Paul think about how impure the water could be in the first century and how that impure water might be affecting Timothy's stomach and his health.

55:06

Timothy was abstaining from wine probably to set a good example from the church and Paul certainly did not want Timothy to lower his standards but Paul also wanted Timothy to look out for his health.

55:16

Timothy had stomach issues and we see frequent ailments that could be coming from drinking impure water. So Paul tells Timothy to drink a little wine for medicinal purposes. We all need to note here that Paul says use a little wine, not a liter of wine, okay?

55:37

Don't read that wrong. It's little not liter. This is another fascinating, absolutely stunning passage of Scripture. I'll tell you why. We're not going to do it right now but you can go home and do this.

55:53

Turn to the book of Acts and you can read page after page where the Holy Spirit gave Paul the power, the miraculous power to heal people. So Paul had that power to heal. But here as Paul writes to his dear, dear friend Timothy, Paul is not feeling the Holy Spirit, move him to pray a word of healing for Timothy's health.

56:14

Instead of praying for God to help Timothy, to heal Timothy like a good pastor should, what does Paul do? Paul prescribes a possible remedy. And I did a little research on this. I don't know if this is true so don't try this at home.

56:31

But the fermentation in the wine apparently could counteract some of the harmful bacteria in the water. So that's why Paul prescribed this. The thing that I think is fascinating is we see here a principle that God absolutely does heal us and God can heal us through miraculous ways and God also heals us through natural and medical ways.

56:54

Aren't we all incredibly grateful to God for the advancements in healthcare? Aren't we all grateful to God for our wonderful doctors and nurses? I can't help but just mention the huge answer to prayer that the USC Keck Hospital and USC Comprehensive Cancer Center has been as an answer to prayer and your prayers for me and my family.

57:23

Those doctors and nurses, they literally saved my life through answered prayer. So after this little note for Timothy, Paul returns to the topic of selecting pastors and elders and Paul explains the practical reason why Timothy needs to take the proper time to evaluate someone's qualifications.

57:49

Let's finish the passage verses 24 to 25. The sins of some people are conspicuous going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later. So also good works are conspicuous. And even those that are not cannot remain hidden.

58:04

Paul says some people's sins are conspicuous going before them to judgment. This means sometimes some people's sins are just so out in the open. They're just so obvious. It's easy to see that they are not qualified yet to be a pastor of a church.

58:20

If everybody's sins were out in the open, the pastoral selection process could move along very quickly. But Paul says the sins of others appear later. Some people, I'm sure no one in this room, but some people are good at hiding their sin.

58:35

So their sins will only become visible with time, like perhaps during a lengthy evaluation process. Paul is reminding Timothy and reminding us that what we see on the outside of a person doesn't necessarily reflect exactly what's going on on the inside.

58:50

And this is true for good works too. This is also important. In verse 25, Paul says, so also good works are conspicuous. Good works, godly character, are easy to see. But even those that are not cannot remain hidden.

59:02

If everyone's godly character was also really easy to see, it would also speed up the process. But with some people, some people in the church, their godly character blossoms over time. So in other words, what we see here is that time and truth go hand in hand.

59:20

Paul is telling Timothy and us, don't rush, don't rush, and possibly overlook sin and don't rush and overlook godly character. The emphasis on these instructions is to follow God obediently and patiently and impartially.

59:36

Again, just in obedience to God. Paul is encouraging Timothy not to worry. Timothy, don't worry, don't hurry. Don't worry and don't hurry to meet the leadership needs of your church. If Timothy refuses to compromise.

59:53

If he refuses to compromise in his obedience to God, then Timothy can rest assured that God will lead him to the right people at the proper time. And this is a great note for us to end on. What a great way to end a passage of scripture.

01:00:09

This is a note for all of us. And here's the question. How much time do you and I spend in our lives worrying and hurrying? If you were going to add it up, how much time do you and I spend going through life worrying and hurrying?

01:00:31

Like we said at the beginning, we serve an awesome God who is absolutely in charge of everything. We never need to worry. We don't. We never need to worry, and we never need to hurry. When we obey our God, we can always rest assured that God will lead us right where we need to go.

01:00:54

And he will give us what is best for us at the proper time. Isn't this a great place in God's word? Our prayer team will be here to pray with you. If you have something on your heart, something in your life for which you'd love prayer, we have some wonderful people in this church who would love to lift you high in prayer.

01:01:12

Will you pray with me please? Father, thank you. Thank you for loving us so much that you always tell us the truth about things we need to know. Thank you for your word. Thank you for this wonderful RockCC church family.

01:01:31

Thank you for the pastors you have called to lead us here. And thank you for giving us this word of truth today that we may take into our heart. And I pray, Father, we would be faithful and we would be obedient to your word in every part of our lives.

01:01:45

And let us be sure to be properly, to properly love and care for our pastors that you have provided to love and care for us. Father, let us be great prayer warriors, not great warriors. I pray. And we love you, Father. We thank you. We praise you in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.