

INTRODUCTION

It has been our great privilege and joy in the previous hour to choose from among ourselves men [or a man] we judge to be of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, to serve, to be deacons [or a deacon] in this church as the household of God.

Next, in the biblical pattern, is for the pastor of the church to set these men [this man] in their [his] office; that is, to appoint these men [this man] over this business, to appoint these men [this man] to this duty.

So, we consider this together now, before it is done, what it is to appoint these men to be deacons. Next week, God willing, we will look at how the Lord Jesus described this a parable about a faithful servant. Today we look at the best example of one who was appointed, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

TEXT

Acts 6:1-7 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. (2) Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. (3) Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; (4) but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." (5) And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, (6) whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. (7) Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

BODY

I. Observe Appointment of the Original Deacons

- A. There is a physical need: the members of the household (specifically the poor widows) need food
 - 1. “business” or “duty” is G5532 *chreia*, which refers to need, necessity
 - 2. old sense of “business” is “that which is undertaken as duty”
- B. The meeting of that need is a business that must be done, a duty that must be performed; people’s physical needs must be met; the members of the household must have their food given to them
- C. Someone must do that business, must perform that duty
 - 1. Any Christian may serve others with spiritual food, or with physical food, to meet the needs of the soul or of the body
 - 2. but certain men are made responsible to make sure it is done
 - 3. that is what makes a need into a duty
- D. There are men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom in the household
- E. The apostles appoint the faithful servants, the wise stewards
 - 1. with prayer
 - 2. by laying on of their hands
- F. The appointment is to being over this business or duty
 - 1. ESV says “to this duty”
 - 2. more precisely it is “over”
 - 3. G1909 *epi*
 - 4. as “epicenter”
- G. Very much good results
- H. Blessing is promised to the servants who serve well: a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus
 - 1. 1 Timothy 3:13
- I. Remember from this three important words
 - 1. Appointed
 - 2. Over (ESV to)
 - 3. Business (ESV duty)

II. See This in Its Ultimate Fulfillment in Our Lord Jesus Christ (Hebrews 3:1-6)

Hebrews 3:1-6 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, (2) who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house. (3) For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. (4) For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God. (5) And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, (6) but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

- A. There is a need: for sinners to be built up into the household of God
- B. Someone must meet that need, do that business, perform that duty
- C. There are faithful men, such as Moses, who could perform some services, as servants, but on a very limited basis, who are not capable of meeting this need, doing this business, performing this duty
 - 1. note that Moses really is in God's house
 - 2. Moses needs this need met for himself, being a sinner
 - 3. so Moses cannot be appointed over this business, cannot be appointed to this duty, because he is one in need
- D. There is one faithful man, Christ Jesus, who can do this business, who can perform this duty
 - 1. He does not need to be made a part of the household, because He is the Son in the household already
 - 2. He does not need to have His sins dealt with in order to be in this holy household, for He has no sin
- E. So He is appointed by God the Father (verse 2)
 - 1. therefore meeting the need is His duty
- F. He is appointed over His own house
 - 1. He is over the house, so it is under Him that this need is met, this business done, this duty performed
- G. He does the business He is appointed over, performs the duty to which He is appointed
- H. Much good results!

- I. He is promised great blessing for serving well
 1. He receives the throne over all thrones
 2. He receives all glory and honor forever
 3. the Son receives the nations for His heritage
 - a) God the Father is pleased to give to Him all for whom He died
 - b) He, Christ Jesus, wants that as His reward
 - c) we are that reward, praise to God!

CONCLUSION

The deacons who have been elected by the church today, I will appoint next week, hopefully, if that proves convenient for those brothers and their wives. They will look to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to know what it is to be appointed over the needs of the household of God. Their service will not be of the same kind as our Lord's, but it will be a service done with the same mind, and by the work of the same Holy Spirit inside. It will be carried out with an eye toward following in His steps, as His disciples.

Prelude: Trinity 506 "Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me?" - Anna

Celebration 353 "Victory in Jesus" - Anna

Trinity 3 "From All That Dwell Below the Skies" - Rita

Celebration 315 "Were You There?" - Anna

Trinity 442 "Behold Th'Amazing Gift of Love" - Allison

Call to Worship and Prayer: Psalm 95:1

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 3:1-6

Sermon: "Appointed Over This Business"

Congregational Prayer

Benediction: Jude 24-25

Trinity 736 Psalm 20