

## INTRODUCTION

The Bible tells us how our Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles recognized the temptation even for His disciples to be lifted up or puffed up with pride or conceit, and the need to keep ourselves in humility as we serve Him. That truth is applied to the church in the matter of choosing good pastors.

## TEXT

1 Timothy 3:6

## BODY

### I. Hear This Doctrine from Our Lord Jesus Himself

Mark 10:35-45 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." 36 And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" 37 They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." 38 But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" 39 They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; 40 but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared." 41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. 42 But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. 44 And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

- A. Even the Lord's disciples are tempted to become lifted up or puffed up with pride or conceit regarding their place in the kingdom
- B. This makes trouble among the Lord's disciples (Mark 10:41)
- C. The word of the Lord Jesus is that even He came not to be served, but to serve;
  - 1. in the case of the Lord Jesus, so perfectly is He, that He actually came to give His life a ransom for many
  - 2. think of the person who does not deserve to be king, but tries to get that office over others for himself
  - 3. but think of the Lord Jesus, who deserved to be king, who was and is, in fact the King, but He gave up His life so that prisoners in captivity would be set free
- D. and so should we seek not to be lifted up in the kingdom, but to humble ourselves and serve;
  - 1. not that we can equal the service rendered by the Lord Jesus
  - 2. but He has left us an example that we may admire and follow

## II. Hear This Doctrine from Our Lord's Apostle Paul

Romans 12:3-10 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. 9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

- A. Even the Lord's disciples, in the same church, are tempted to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think, based on our gifts and functions in the church
- B. The Word of the Lord by His apostle is that we put down that temptation with these thoughts
  - 1. verse 4 we are just different members of the same body
  - 2. verse 6 we have our gifts by grace given to us
  - 3. verse 10 we should prefer to give honor to each other rather than to ourselves

## III. Hear This Doctrine Applied to the Matter of the Church Choosing Pastors

- A. 1 Timothy 3:6 not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.
  - 1. lit. not a new plant
  - 2. not a man newly converted to the faith
  - 3. not a new Christian
- B. How new?
  - 1. not specified
  - 2. left to the judgment of the church

## IV. Consider the Temptation of a Novice Made a Pastor

- A. The usual temptation to think more highly of himself than he ought to think
- B. The additional temptation that comes with actually being elevated to a position over the rest of the church
- C. But without the benefit of much sanctification in the area of humility
  - 1. not much opportunity to learn what the Bible says about it
  - 2. not much time for those lessons to be learned with experience
- D. A church should not subject a novice to this temptation

- V. Understand What Conduct Would Be Likely In a Novice Made a Pastor
- A. He would be puffed up or lifted up
    1. the Bible here does not literally say “pride” or “conceit,” but that is the concept
    2. it says, most literally, that he will be “smoked;” consider how smoke behaves
      - a) it rises up in height
      - b) it billows out in size
      - c) but there is no substance to it
    3. some scholars say that the idea here is that he will be smoked in the sense of not being able to see clearly
  - B. Of course this would not happen to the same degree in every case
  - C. But this is what the church would be correct to expect if they were to set a novice in the office of pastor
- VI. Learn from the Case of the Devil What Would Happen to Such a Pastor
- A. The devil and the demons are fallen angels
    1. 2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;
    2. Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;
  - B. The angels sinned
    1. they sinned 2 Peter 2:4
    2. not that God created the angels sinful; as He did not create Adam and Eve sinful
    3. but those angels sinned against God; they transgressed His law
    4. their sin involved not keeping their proper place Jude verse 6
      - a) GEN, KJV kept not their first estate, but left their owne habitation
      - b) NKJV did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode
      - c) ESV did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling
  - C. God cast them down
  - D. A novice made a pastor is in danger of following the steps of the devil
    1. he gets puffed up
    2. he sins, leaving his assigned place
    3. God throws him down
    4. sadly, he probably takes others down with him

## CONCLUSION

Then let the church choose as a pastor a man who is not a novice.

Haven - Prelude “Amazing Grace” Rita - Trinity 667 “To God Be the Glory” Allison - Trinity 6 “All Ye That Fear Jehovah’s Name” Allison - Trinity 175 “Man of Sorrows”	Chris - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Proverbs 16:18-20 Stephen - Scripture Reading - 1 Kings 12:1-19 Jeremiah - Congregational Prayer Benediction: Psalm 37:7-11
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ESV: a new convert  
GEN: a young scholar

lit. a new plant  
How new? the Bible doesn't say  
e.g. not Andrew

### **LIFTED UP WITH PRIDE**

GEN, NKJV, ESV puffed up    ESV: conceit  
G5187 *tuphoo*

RWP: to raise a smoke or mist (a smoke-screen of pride)  
VWS: The verb means primarily to make a smoke: hence, metaphorically, to blind with pride or conceit. Neither A.V. nor Rev. puffed up, preserves the radical sense, which is the sense here intended - a beclouded and stupid state of mind as the result of pride.

GEN:

Lest by reason that he is advanced to that position, he takes occasion to be proud, which will undo him, and so he fall into the same condemnation that the devil himself has fallen into.

pride as a vice, not a virtue  
being set in a position over others tempts one to pride

pride can have the effect of making a man seem higher or bigger than he actually is

### **FALL INTO THE CONDEMNATION OF THE DEVIL**

NKJV same condemnation as the devil

GEN: the same condemnation that the devil himself has fallen into  
Gill: it seems from hence, that pride was the first sin of the devil

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

JRY: to be thrown down; to take others down with him

2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

Gill:

by whom are meant the devil and his angels what their first sin was, and the occasion of it, is not easy to say; it is generally thought to be pride, affecting a likeness to, or an equality with God; since this was what man was tempted to by them, and by which he fell, as they are thought to do; and because this is the sin of such who fall into the condemnation of the devil; 1Ti\_3:6 and is the sin, that goes before a fall in common; as it did before the fall of man, so it might before the fall of angels, Pro\_16:18.

Clarke:

Jude says they kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation; which seems to indicate that they got discontented with their lot, and aspired to higher honors, or perhaps to celestial domination.

God cast the apostate angels out of his presence...they will be for ever banished from the light of his countenance, and from the beatifying influence of the ever blessed Three

Geneva:

Bound them with darkness as with chains: and by darkness he means that most miserable state of life that is full of horror.

Calvin:

What is useful to us, God has made known, that is, that the devils were at first created, that they might serve and obey God, but that through their own fault they apostatized, because they would not submit to the authority of God; and that thus the wickedness found in them was accidental, and not from nature, so that it could not be ascribed to God.

On Revelation 12

Spurgeon:

Satan doubtless of old drew from heaven a number of its stars — -other angels fell with him

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