

Guard the Truth
Leading Servants of the Church
1 Timothy 3:1-7

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. (Acts 6:1-6)

I. Places of Discernment for Deacons (8-12)

- A) Observable Conduct "likewise" (8)
- B) Deep Truths of the Faith - the Gospel (9)
~ see Ephesians 6:19
- C) Tested (10)
- D) Family Life (11-12)

II. Rewards for Faithful Deacons (13)

Points to Ponder: How might this text help us encourage our leading servants (Deacons) at Great Valley?

Next Week: We will continue our study of 1 Timothy *Guard the Truth* by considering the text of **1 Timothy 3:14-16** "The Church's Identity."

