

## 1 Tim 5:19 – 6:2

Vs 19,20 The Greek here would imply some type of official hearing. Elders had a high standards and big responsibilities. Their decisions may have made enemies. No accusations were to be accepted unless two or three bear testimony. It reminds us of the Law and the witnesses that did not agree at Jesus' trial. Once they agreed, because of the public position of leading, they were to be publicly rebuked. The 'others' probably refers to the other elders. That would put the fear of God in them. The tendency in the church today is to bury it and move on. The reason is fear of losing numbers not the fear of God. A little leaven leavens the whole lump. It was a high standard that the church today needs to return to.

Vs 21 When it comes to the disbursement of offerings we must be very careful not to be partial or in favor of those closer to us. This whole chapter is about use of offerings. (Paul never uses the word tithes as it is a part of the Law) This specific instruction is given to help us avoid favoritism in disbursement. If you recall, the creation of the office of deacons in Acts is because of this very problem. We can go beyond money to any giving or ministry which should be impartial.

Vs 22 The laying on of hands for healing or calling or baptism of the Spirit (the three Scriptural applications of laying on of hands) should not be done without the leading of the Spirit. It may also refer to restoration of the rebuked elder. An easy quick restoration may encourage them to fall again. Sin can be shared by remaining silent or by working together with another who is not under the right motivation. Watch that their sin does not drag you along so that you are entangled by it. Stay dedicated to God alone, not a person or a selfish cause.

Vs 23 Tim may have made a pledge not to drink wine but Paul encourages the moderate use medicinally. Red wine actually lowers cholesterol.

Vs 24,25 In this life they start to reap the results of the sin. Others will seem to escape those results until the final judgement. No one escapes that without the blood of the Lamb. Is Paul still referring to these errant elders? In the reverse, the last verse is an encouraging Scripture! Do everything as unto the Lord. He sees and rewards! Every man will be rewarded according to his own labor. Some of that blessing will be in this life but much of the secret worship, giving, prayer, will only see its rewards in the next life.

6:1 This is not an endorsement of slavery but simply says if you are a slave, you should act in a manner worthy of full respect. A large portion of the Christian world were slaves. Whatever our station in life, we should act as Christ would act. "under the yoke" implies a hard disagreeable position. It may also imply masters who were not Christian. If a slave owner knew his servant was a Christian, the way the servant acts will reflect on the cause of Christ. I just heard today of a brother who treated an unsaved business associate with an arrogant pride, instead of giving up his rights to win the associate. How we act reflects on the cause of Christ and will draw people to Him, or give them an excuse to stay away. 1Peter 2:18-25

6:2 A believer as a slave owner? It was a different time an culture. Certainly it should of affected the way he treated his slaves an yet the slave is to serve the owner brother diligently for a brother is benefiting from his service. We need this mind set today in the work place, in the body, as we care for one another's needs. Selfishness is antithetical to the Christian life.