

October 18, 2026

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. For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and “The laborer deserves his wages.”

The elder [Pastor] who rules well

As Paul closes out this letter to Timothy for the future of the Church in Ministerial care, he highlights ***the value of the laborer who is in service to Christ Jesus***. As he has said before, many people are worthy of honor: Deacons, Deaconesses, lay leaders, and widows to name a few. But here he adds to the understanding of those who serve well as Ministers of the Gospel of Christ by speaking of their worth as being of double honor. To be fed / and or paid / these laborers deserve to receive care from the rest.

1. Preaching and Teaching require faithful labor.

Preparing for homiletics requires training and instruction. [Sem+Vic]
Bringing composition and delivery that deals with the text itself.
Encompassing both the Ministry and the Mission of the Church.

2. Time is given to prayer, study, application, and delivery.

I am always amused at the 1 hour a week notion of Preaching.
You can prepare a good sermon and fail at delivery. [sick/distracted]
You can prepare a poor sermon and succeed at delivery. [Holy Spirit]

3. Those who do it well are God-blessed.

To benefit themselves and their hearers... the Word is the Key!
As CFW Walther would say, application isn't as easy as it looks.
A good and blessed message uplifts and comforts the soul.

Is worthy of double honor.

Paul's instructions to Timothy and his Ministry in Ephesus is shortly coming to an end. I find it amazing that everything needful is covered in 6 chapters... but it is there where Paul leaves it for the power of God to complete this work for the sake of the Church. Thanks be to God for that! Double honor? Timothy served well for 33 years amidst the goddess of fertility called Artemis and the cultural muck of the day. Christ was heard and worshipped through the Word preached and taught by Timothy.