

What is God Saying to Me About God, Life, and Man?

1. There's nothing wrong with a man wanting to be an elder; that's actually a good thing. The question is, what kind of character and reputation does he have, at home, at work, and elsewhere (3:1-7)?
2. When a church considers a man for the position of elder, that man must have great godly character: he must have self-control concerning fidelity to his wife, his treatment of others, emotions, money, alcohol and material things. He must have godly character at home evidenced by his leadership which produces a godly wife and godly children. He must not be a new convert, i.e., his godly character must not be new but established long enough to know that it's not fleeting. And he must have a good reputation among non-Christians, i.e., his godly character is evident not just in church but among those with whom he rubs elbows every day in the messy, non-Christian world (3:1-7).
3. If a man can't lead his own house well as husband and father, he won't know how to take care of God's Church as an elder (3:5).
4. Satan was condemned for his pride and we can fall into the same trap (3:6).
5. Satan has traps waiting for us in the world (3:7).
6. When a church considers a man for the position of deacon, he must have great godly character: he must have self-control concerning his speech, alcohol, money and fidelity to his wife. He must be one who walks faithfully with the Lord with a clean conscience. His godly character must be witnessed long enough to know that it's not temporary but genuine. He must have godly character at home evidenced by his leadership which produces a godly wife and godly children (3:8-12).
7. Your actions (not simply your knowledge of God's Word) reveal your godliness and godly people should produce godly actions (3:1-13).
8. God expects certain behavior from everyone in the church, from its leaders and from its members (3:1-15).
9. The God of Christianity is alive and active in the lives of Christians: He is their God and they are His people and He expects them to live by His truth, which defines all of reality inside and outside the church (3:1-15).
10. The church is the one who is supposed to support, defend, and proclaim the truth of God, which defines all of reality inside and outside the church (3:1-15).
11. Without question, the mystery of godliness is great. That is, how can God demand that the church fill its leadership roles of elders and deacons with blameless men who possess godly character at home, at work, and everywhere else when humanity is so full of sinful individuals? That is, how can God turn wicked men into godly individuals who can lead His church and live by, defend and proclaim His truth? Answer: Jesus Christ, who was God in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, witnessed by angels, preached among sinful Gentiles, believed on and accepted by a sinful world that was filled with sinful individuals who were transformed, and who was then taken back up to glory (3:1-16).