

# AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

Ben Orchard / May 12, 2024 / 1 Timothy 5:22-25



Week of May 12, 2024

Appoint Leaders \_\_\_\_\_ (22a)

Encourage Leaders to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (22b-23)

Examine Leaders \_\_\_\_\_ (24-25)

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. The Bible talks about "laying hands on" people in a variety of contexts – sometimes for prayer, sometimes for healing, etc. What does Paul mean here by his use of the phrase? (see Num 27:22-23, Deut 34:9, Acts 8:17-18)
3. Verse 22 offers a warning against granting someone the office of elder too hastily. Have you encountered a situation in your life where you recommended someone for a position but then later came to regret it?
4. Paul warns Timothy in verse 22 about the possibility of sharing "responsibility for the sins of others..." In what sense could Timothy be held responsible for the sins of someone he elevated to the office of elder? In what sense could we be held responsible for the sins of someone else?
5. Verse 23 concerns the drinking of wine for medicinal purposes. It's a little odd to find it here, sandwiched between instructions on personal holiness and taking care in elevating elders. Why does Paul (inspired by the Holy Spirit) insert this comment here? How does this thought connect with the rest of the passage?
6. Verse 24: Given that the sins of some men are not immediately obvious, what steps can Christians and church leaders take to ensure that only qualified men are elevated to leadership? (refer back to chapter 3 for the list of elder qualifications)
7. Reflect back on the lessons of 1 Timothy 5. Given that we live in an age of easy, often anonymous slander, what can church members do to honor and protect the leaders of their church? What should church members do when a sin issue does present itself in the life of a church leader?