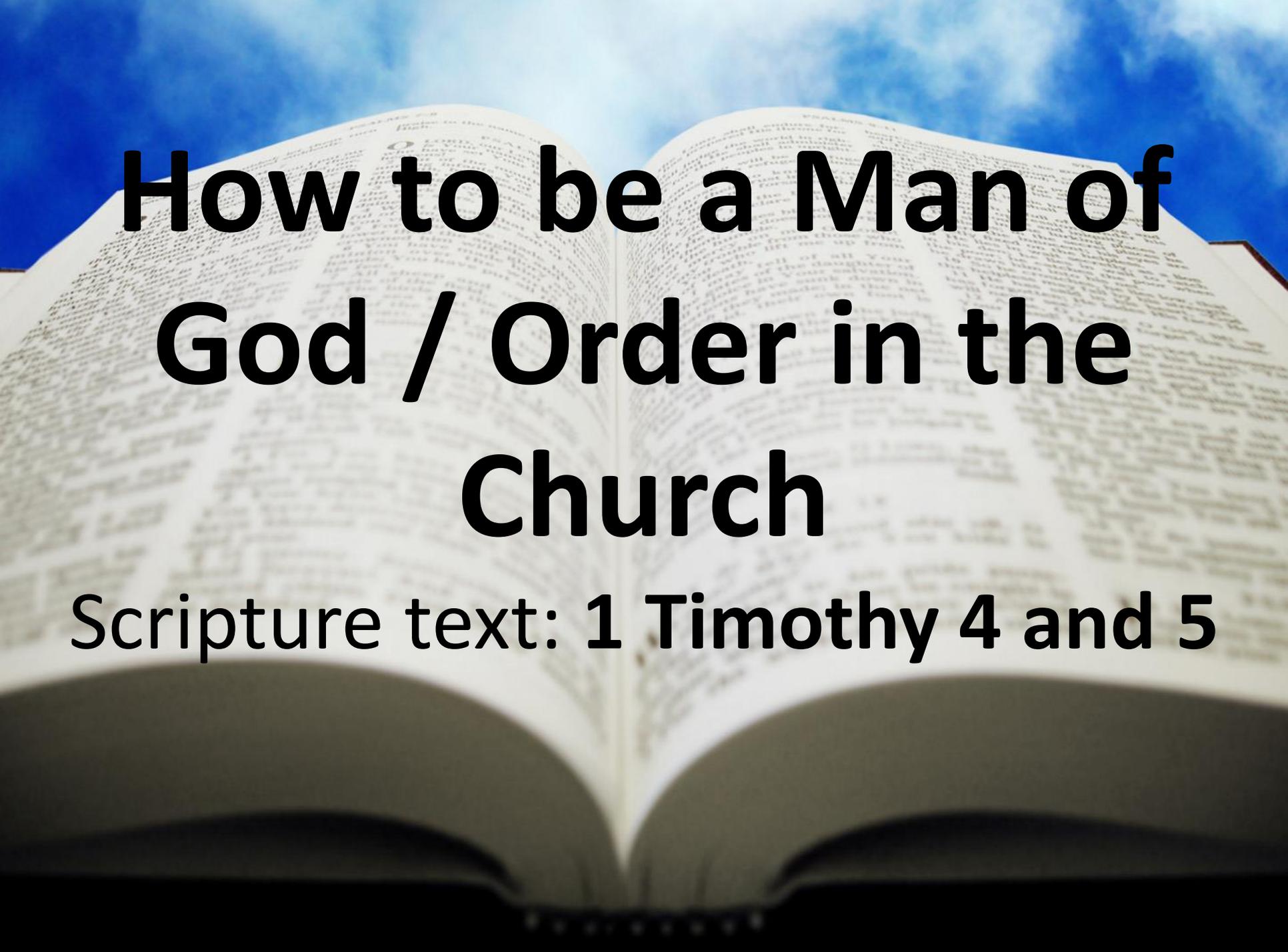


Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, with its pages fanned out. The text on the pages is small and mostly illegible. The background behind the book is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. Overlaid on the book is the main title in large, bold, black font.

How to be a Man of God / Order in the Church

Scripture text: 1 Timothy 4 and 5

Devote yourself fully to Christ (v. 15).

“Meditate” carried the idea of **“be in them, give yourself totally to them.”** Timothy’s spiritual life and ministry **were to be the absorbing, controlling things in his life**, not merely sidelines that he occasionally practiced. There can be no real pioneer advance in one’s ministry without total dedication to the task. **“No man can serve two masters” (Matt. 6:24).**

Matthew 6:24 **"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.**
You cannot serve God and money.

While I do not want to sound critical, I must confess that I am disturbed by the fact that too many pastors and Christian workers **divide their time and interest between the church and some sideline.**

It may be real estate, trips to the Holy Land, politics, civic duties, even denominational service. Their own spiritual lives suffer, and their churches suffer, because these men are not devoting themselves wholly to their ministry. “This one thing I do” was Paul’s controlling motive, and it ought to be ours too (Phil. 3:13). “A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways” (James 1:8).

Philippians 3:8-11 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, **in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith-- **that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.**

Philippians 3:12-14 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. **But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead**, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

James 1:6-8 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, **for the one who doubts** is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; **he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.**

Take spiritual inventory (v. 16).

Examine your own heart in the light of the Word of God. Note that Paul put “thyself” ahead of “the doctrine.” Paul had given this same warning to the Ephesian elders in his farewell message: **“Take heed therefore unto yourselves”** (Acts 20:28). A servant of God can be so busy helping others that he neglects himself and his own spiritual walk.

Act 20:28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Act 20:26-31 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, **for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.** Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and **from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.** Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears.

The great American evangelist of the 1800s, Charles Finney, used to preach on this text. He titled his sermon **“Preacher, Save Thyself!”**

That sermon is needed today, for we are seeing people having to leave the ministry **because their lives have not kept up with their profession.** Moral problems, divorces, and other kinds of shameful conduct have destroyed many of God’s servants.

1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore **let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.**

The building up of the saved and the winning of the lost are the purposes for our ministry, to the glory of God. But God must work in us before He can effectively work through us (Phil. 2:12–13). As good ministers, we preach the Word; as godly ministers, we practice the Word; as growing ministers, we progress in the Word.

Philippians 2:12-13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.**

ORDER IN THE CHURCH!

The first problem the early church faced was also a modern one: **A group of church members was neglected by the ministering staff (Acts 6).**

I once heard a certain pastor described as “a man who is invisible during the week and incomprehensible on Sunday.” Again, somebody in his congregation was feeling neglected.

Then Paul instructed Timothy how to minister to specific groups in his church.