

¹This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.²A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;³Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;⁴One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;⁵(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)⁶Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.⁷Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.⁸Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;⁹Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.¹⁰And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.¹¹Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.¹²Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.¹³For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.¹⁴These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly.¹⁵But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.¹⁶And without controversy great is the mystery of

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¹صَادِقَةٌ هِيَ الْكَلِمَةُ: إِنْ ابْتَغَى أَحَدُ الْأُسْقُفِيَّةِ قَبَسْتَهِيَ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا.²فَيَجِبُ أَنْ يَكُونَ الْأُسْقُفُ بِلَا لَوْمٍ، بَعْلَ امْرَأَةٍ وَاحِدَةٍ، صَاحِبًا، عَاقِلًا، مُخْتَصِمًا، مُصِيفًا لِلْغُرَبَاءِ، صَالِحًا لِلتَّعْلِيمِ،³عَبْرٌ مُذْمِنَ الْحَمْرِ، وَلَا صَرَّابٍ، وَلَا طَامِعَ بِالزَّبْحِ الْقَبِيحِ، بَلْ خَلِيمًا، عَبْرٌ مُخَاصِمٍ، وَلَا مُجِبَّ لِلْمَالِ،⁴يُدَبِّرُ بَيْتَهُ حَسَنًا، لَهُ أَوْلَادٌ فِي الْحُضُوعِ يَكُلُّ وَقَارًا. وَإِنَّمَا إِنْ كَانَ أَحَدٌ لَا يَعْرِفُ أَنْ يَدَبِّرَ بَيْتَهُ، فَكَيْفَ يَعْتَنِي بِكَنِيسَةِ اللَّهِ؟⁵عَبْرٌ حَدِيثُ الْإِيمَانِ لئَلَّا يَتَصَلَّفَ فَيَسْقُطَ فِي دَيْتُونَةٍ إِنْ لَيْسَ.⁷وَيَجِبُ أَيْضًا أَنْ تَكُونَ لَهُ شَهَادَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ مِنَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ مِنْ خَارِجٍ لئَلَّا يَسْقُطَ فِي تَغْيِيرٍ وَفَحٍ إِنْ لَيْسَ.

⁸كَذَلِكَ يَجِبُ أَنْ يَكُونَ الشَّامِسَةُ ذَوِي وَقَارٍ لَا ذَوِي لِسَاتِينَ، عَبْرٌ مُوَلَعِينَ بِالْحَمْرِ الْكَثِيرِ، وَلَا طَامِعِينَ بِالزَّبْحِ الْقَبِيحِ،⁹وَلَهُمْ سِرُّ الْإِيمَانِ بِصُمِيرٍ طَاهِرٍ.¹⁰وَإِنَّمَا هَؤُلَاءِ أَيْضًا، لِيُخْتَبَرُوا أَوَّلًا ثُمَّ تَسَمَّسُوا إِنْ كَانُوا بِلَا لَوْمٍ.¹¹كَذَلِكَ يَجِبُ أَنْ تَكُونَ النِّسَاءُ ذَوَاتٍ وَقَارٍ عَبْرَ تَالِيَاتٍ، صَاحِبَاتٍ، أَمِيَّاتٍ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ.¹²لِيَكُنِ الشَّامِسَةُ كُلُّ بَعْلٍ امْرَأَةً وَاحِدَةً مُدَبِّرِينَ أَوْلَادَهُمْ وَبُيُوتَهُمْ حَسَنًا.¹³لَأَنَّ الَّذِينَ تَسَمَّسُوا حَسَنًا يَفْتَنُونَ لَأَنْفُسِهِمْ دَرَجَةً حَسَنَةً وَثَقَّةً كَثِيرَةً فِي الْإِيمَانِ الَّذِي بِالْمَسِيحِ يَسُوعَ.

سِرُّ التَّقْوَى الْعَظِيمِ

¹⁴هَذَا أَكْتُبُهُ إِلَيْكَ رَاجِيًا أَنْ آتِيَ إِلَيْكَ عَنْ قَرِيبٍ،¹⁵وَلَكِنْ إِنْ كُنْتُ أَطْلُئُ فَلِكُنِّي تَعْلَمُ كَيْفَ يَجِبُ أَنْ تَتَصَرَّفَ فِي بَيْتِ اللَّهِ الَّذِي هُوَ كَنِيسَةُ اللَّهِ الْحَيِّ، عَمُودُ الْحَقِّ وَقَاعِدَتُهُ.¹⁶وَبِالْإِجْمَاعِ عَظِيمٍ هُوَ سِرُّ التَّقْوَى: اللَّهُ طَاهَرٌ فِي الْجَسَدِ، تَبَرَّرَ فِي الرُّوحِ، تَرَاءَى لِمَلَائِكَةٍ، كُرِّرَ بِهِ بَيْنَ الْأُمَمِ، أَوْمِنَ بِهِ فِي الْعَالَمِ، رُفِعَ فِي الْمَجْدِ.

godliness: God was manifest in the flesh,
justified in the Spirit, seen of angels,
preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in
the world, received up into glory.