

A Study About Elders

(Part 17)

I. Introduction:

A. There will be evil and good reports regarding faithful saints (**II Corinthians 6:1-8**).

1. The fact is, faithful saints and teachers often have things said of them that are negative and untrue (**Matthew 5:10-12** and **John 15:18-21**).
2. Faithful men do not necessarily want everyone to speak well of them (**Luke 6:26**).

B. What we must accomplish is living in a way wherein no one can make a credible claim of unfaithful living about us (**I Peter 2:9-12** and **I Peter 3:15-16**).

1. Our conduct must be as becometh the Gospel (**Philippians 1:27**).
2. If you live to be a pattern of good to follow, you can accomplish this (**Titus 2:7-8**).

II. Body: Having A Good Report Of Them Which Are Without (**I Timothy 3:7**).

A. The term translated “report” in this qualification means: “evidence given (judicially or genitive case): — record, report, testimony, witness” (Strong’s # 3141). It appears 37 times in the KJV translated as “witness(es)” (15), “testimony” (14), “record” (7), and “report” (1).

1. The term is used when talking about witnesses (**Mark 14:55-59**).
2. The term is used about a record of events (**John 1:19**).
3. The term is translated as “testimony” (**John 5:34**).
4. The greatest witness or record is that which comes from God (**I John 5:1-13**).
5. Credible witnesses serve as evidence throughout the entirety of the Scriptures (**Deuteronomy 17:6-7**, **Deuteronomy 19:15**, **Matthew 18:15-17**, **John 8:17-18**, **II Corinthians 13:1**, **I Timothy 5:19**, and **Hebrews 10:28**).

B. We must consider by whose standard we call something good (**Proverbs 17:15** and **Isaiah 5:20**).

1. People will misapply what God calls good (**Malachi 2:17**).
2. The way God perceives good and what man calls good are not the same (**Luke 16:15**).
3. It is upon us to test what is good (**Romans 12:1-2** and **I Thessalonians 5:21**).
4. We have to properly use the Scriptures to know what is good according to our Lord (**II Timothy 3:15-17**).

C. Of a good report (**Acts 6:1-3**, **Acts 10:22**, **Acts 16:1-3**, and **I Timothy 5:9-10**).

1. The good report is to come from those without, meaning people outside of the faith (**Mark 4:10-11** and **I Corinthians 5:9-13**).
 2. The point is, this man must have a good reputation amongst even people of the world (**Proverbs 4:18**, **Ecclesiastes 7:1**, **Philippians 2:14-16**, and **I Peter 4:1-16**).
 3. How do those around him speak of him outside of the congregation (**Acts 22:12**)?
- D. Lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil (**II Timothy 2:24-26**).
1. This point is illustrated in one way concerning a person whom desires to be rich (**I Timothy 6:6-10**).
 2. To avoid this, remove whatever would cause you to fall (**Deuteronomy 7:22-26**).
 3. Walking wisely, especially towards those without (**Colossians 4:6**), will leave us free from traps (**Proverbs 1:1-19**).
- III. Conclusion: It is possible to have a good report from all (**III John 1:12**).