§—12. I. TIMOTHY. Su   
 w   
 AUTIIORIZED VERSION. AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED. \_   
   
 pure conscience. 19 And let science. 10 And moreover let these   
 these also first be proved ; also first be proved; then let them   
 then let them use the office serve as deacons, if they be not   
 of «@ deacon, being found under reproach.   
 blameless. 11 Even so must in like manner must 314 be grave, not ase Tt.11.5.   
 their wives be grave, not   
 slanderers, sober, faithful slanderers, sober, faithful in all   
 in all things. '\* Let the 12 Let the deacons be hus-   
 deacons be the husbands of things.   
   
 is that mystery, the great object of all expression in like manner, by which the   
 faith: see note on ver.16. That expres- deacons themselves were introduced in   
 sion makes it probable that the faith is ver. 8, and which seems to mark a new   
 here to be taken subjectively: ¢he, or ecclesiastical (¢) the introduction of   
 their, faith : the apprehension which ap- the injunction respecting the deacons in   
 propriates to them the contents of God’s ver. 12, as a new particular, which would   
 revelation of Christ. That revelation of hardly be if their wives had been men-   
 the Person of Christ, their faith’s tioned before: (d) the circumstance con-   
 they are to hold) in pure conscience (see nected with the mention of Phebe as   
 ch. i.19. From those passages it appears, deaconess of the Church at Cenchrew in   
 that we must not give the words a special Rom. xvi. 1, that unless these are deacon-   
 application to their official as deacons, esses, there would be among these injunc-   
 but understand them of earnestness and tions no mention of an important class of   
 singleness of Christian character: heing in rsons employed as officers the church.   
 heart persuaded of the truth of that divine We come thus to consider (1), that these   
 mystery which they profess to have appre- women are deaconesses,— ministre, as   
 hended by faith). 10.] And moreover Pliny calls them in his letter to Trajan   
 (the moreover introduces a caution—the [see note on Rom. xvi. 1]. In this view   
 slight contrast of a necessary addition to the ancients are as far as I know unani-   
 their mere present character) let these mous: and it is by some of the ablest   
 (who answer, in their candidateship for the among the moderns. It is alleged   
 diaconate, to the above character) be put it—(a) that thus the return tothe deacons,   
 to the proof first (viz. regard to their verse 12, would be harsh, or, as Conybeare   
 blamelessness of life, see the conditioning says, “on that view the verse is most.   
 clause below: ¢.g. by testimonials, and unnaturally interpolated in the midst of   
 publication of their intention offer them- the discussion concerning the deacons.”   
 selves: but no formal way is specified, But the ready answer to this is found in   
 the reality insisted on); then let them Chrysostom’s view of ver. 12, that under   
 act as deacons (or, simply, let them minis- the word deacons, and their household   
 ter: but more probably here in the nar- duties, he comprehends in fact both sexes   
 rower technical sense), if they are (found under one: (b) that the existence of dea-   
 by the desting process to be) irreproach- conesses as an order in the is after   
 able. 11.] (The) women in like manner all not so clear. To this it might be an-   
 (who are these? Are they (1) women who swered, that even were they nowhere else   
 were to serve as deacons,—deaconesses P— mentioned, the present passage stands on   
 or (2) wives of deacons ?— or (3) wives of its own grounds; and if it seemed from   
 the deacons and overseers ?—or (4) women the context that such persons were indi-   
 in general? I conceive we may dismiss (4) cated here, we should reason from this to   
 at once, for Chrysostom’s reason: “ Why the fact of their existence, not from the   
 should he in the midst of writing on absence of other mention to their non-indi-   
 another subject insert any thing respect- cation here. I decide then for (1): that   
 ing women ?”—(3) upheld by Calvin and these women are deaconesses) (must be)   
 others, may for the same reason, seeing that grave, not slanderers (corresponds to “not   
 he returns to the deacons again in ver. 12, doubletongued” in the males, slander being   
 be characterized as extremely improbable : the vice to which the female sex is more   
 —(2) has found many supporters among addicted. The word used for slan-   
 modern Commentators: and it is ren- derer in this sense is peculiar, the New   
 dering of the A. V. But it has against it Test., to these Epistles), sober (see on   
 (a) the omission in the original of all ex- yer, 2, corresponding to not given to much   
 pressed reference to the deacons: (8) the tvine, ver. 8), faithful in all things (cor-