
Until I come devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation to teaching. (1 Timothy 4:13)

I. The Holy Spirit Warns

- a. What defines and shapes a good minister? Paul answers this question, by reminding Timothy to study, teach, preach the Scriptures, and spend time in prayer.
- b. All ministers and believers must be nourished in the words of faith.
 1. God's people must be aware of the signs or differences between what is holy and unholy.
- c. A minister/pastor must teach positive doctrine so that people will know what they believe and where they are going. In doing so, the minister also exposes false doctrine.
- d. We should not get wrapped up with "silly" people who discuss "silly doctrine". But we need to know what the enemy is teaching, so that we can defend the gospel apologetically. (v.7)
- e. The "good servant" preaches the Word that they feed on daily, but it is not enough to preach the Word, they must also practice it.

II. Training and Practice

- a. Paul shifted to an athletic illustration. Just as an athlete must refuse certain things, eat the right food, and do the right exercises so, a Christian should practice "spiritual exercise."
- b. We should care for our bodies and bodily exercise benefits us during this life. However, godly exercise is profitable now and for eternity.
- c. Notice Paul did not ask Timothy to choose between the two, because God expects us to practice both. A healthy body can be used by God, but we must major on holiness.
- d. Godly character is more important than homeruns, touchdowns or three-pointers.
- e. The English word *agonize* is derived from *strive* in verse 10. A Christian who wants to excel in the faith and grow spiritually must really work at it. **How do we exercise ourselves in godliness?**
- f. Prayer, meditation, self-examination, fellowship, service, sacrifice, and submission to the will of others will shape a believer's character. The pastor/minister must set the tone for these.
- g. Behind the ministry of public teaching there is the discipline of private study. All the best teachers have remained students.
- h. **Command** (to pass on from experience) and **teach** (instruction by word of mouth). (v.11)
- i. Godly living is good for us and those around us. A good example is a positive influencer. Paul listed several way in which we should be examples.
- j. The minister/pastor who is not growing is actually going backward. It is impossible to stand still in the Christian life. Think about it, if the pastor is moving forward in the things of God so should the people.
 1. "Age is nothing but a number." (v. 12) We can avoid other believers despising our youth or "newness" in ministry by being a good example in speech, in lifestyle, in faith and in purity.
- k. Show dedication to Scriptures. *Public reading of Scripture* is the single Greek noun *anagnōsis*. (v.13) We see the shaping of liturgy (order of worship).
- l. What was the gift? We do not know specifically, but some believed it was to teach and rule.
- m. No contradiction between public and private life, or between preaching and practice.

III. Thoughts and Considerations

- a. Our Christian growth should be both dynamic and progressive. People should be able to observe not only what they are but what they are becoming, supplying evidence that they are growing into maturity in Christ.
- b. In what ways or areas would you like to grow spiritually?