

I Timothy 4, Sermon #5

I Timothy 4 - We find instructions given to Timothy on how to handle false teaching:

- First he was told how to handle the congregation covered that.
- Then how to handle himself, Vs. 12-16

So, Timothy was receiving personal instructions as a pastor, and we will apply these principles to our life!

Five principles of personal instruction.

We covered one last week – we will cover two more today.

What was last week's principle? Let our life be an example. Timothy was to be an example.

Six ways in which we should be an example / a role model in Vs. 12:

- In word
- In conversation / conduct
- In charity
- In spirit
- In faith
- And in purity

Last week it was the example we set.

I've entitled today's message **"The Ministry We Give"**

I Timothy 4:12

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

I Timothy 4:12-16

Let us pray.

You may be seated.

“The Ministry We Give”

Principle #2 – We are to give attention to our ministry. Salvation is not the end, salvation is the beginning. (Ephesians 8-10; Ephesians 4:11-16)

We have a part in the Body of Christ and we must give attention to it.

How many Christians should have a ministry?

I Timothy 4:13, “till I come”

That phrase shows Paul intended to return to Ephesus.

Until Paul arrived, Timothy was to continue in 3 things, reading, in exhortation, and in doctrine. These were the 3 building blocks of a balanced ministry.

“Give attendance to” means “devote yourself to, be absorbed in.” Timothy was to make sure he was doing this. He was to pay attention. His ministry literally was to hold his mind attentive. Our ministry is not to be an after thought.

Now Timothy’s ministry was that of a pastor.

- What is our ministry?
- Am I devoted to it?
- Am I absorbed in it?

Colossians 3:23 “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;”

“Give attendance to” is in the present active form – Which means that Timothy was to continually give his attention to these things; it was to be his way of life.

Let us never separate our lives into secular and the religious.

What was Timothy to devote himself to? (vs. 13) Reading.

It was not golf, hunting, fishing, but to reading.

What was Timothy to read? - Newspapers, comics, good books, mail?

Folks, this is an emphasis on **reading God's Word**. If we are going to be in ministry, if we are going to be serving the Lord, we better know what we are doing. It is the Word of God that holds all our answers.

Reading the Scriptures has a two-fold meaning for Pastor Timothy:

- Personal Reading
- And Secondly, Public Reading

Give attention to reading “implies previous preparation in private.”

This encompasses not just his public ministry, but all the commitment, study and preparation associated with it.

A Christian who only has a public ministry, not reading, not praying, not walking with God, really has no ministry; it is a sham. He or she is just performing religious duties.

How could Timothy minister to others with an empty tank?

There are far too many Christians who are “winging” their ministries - Unprepared, tardy (usher, be here early, nursery worker, be here early), forgetful

II Timothy 2:15, 19-21

A major part of our ministry is the preparation that takes place in private.

It is the work, labor; it is thoughts that go into your ministry that only God sees, that makes a ministry.

The reading of vs. 13 was also done in the public worship service of the church.

- Paul often read the Scripture when he visited a synagogue (Acts 13:15).
- Jesus read the Scriptures in the synagogue at Nazareth.

In Luke 4:16, Jesus stood up to read. He read in Isaiah. He closed the book and began

to explain what he had read.

Part of every worship service in a synagogue was the reading and explanation of the Old Testament Scriptures. This crossed over to the churches.

The reading of the Scriptures was accompanied by an exposition of the passage read so that the hearers could understand it.

Many churches have dispensed with the public reading of God's Word from the pulpit and in the classrooms. Booklet refers to scriptures.

- They read poems, stories, parts of good books, or something downloaded from the internet.
- With most of the entertaining going on these days, there is no time left for the reading of the Bible.

Scripture is the material with which a good Pastor/Christian builds his or her ministry.

Ministering the Word was not something Timothy was to do after he had done other things; it was to be the most important thing he did.

It was his life's work – it is what he lived for.

We don't live for football games; we don't live to get more things.

Things are to be enjoyed, but we live unto Christ.

Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me."

Secondly, Timothy was to give attention to **Exhortation** (1 Tim. 4:13)

This word means "To beseech, to admonish, to urge people." The idea here is

encouraging the hearers of the read Word to be doers of the Word – to apply the reading of the Scriptures to their living.

Exhortation challenges people to apply the truths they have been taught.

It warns people to obey, in light of the blessing to come if they do, and the judgment if they do not.

Exhortation may take the form of rebuke, warning, counsel, preaching, or comfort, but it always involves a binding of the conscience.

We must encourage righteous living.

Turn over to II Timothy 4:2.

1st – Timothy was to give attention to reading; 2nd – Timothy was to administer exhortation, and

Thirdly, Timothy was to give attention to **Doctrine**

“Doctrine” appears 17 times in the Pastoral Epistles.

“Doctrine” means “teaching or instruction,” and it is a major emphasis in the pastoral Epistles.

This involves the systematic explanation of the Word of God.

Timothy was to have a balanced ministry:

- He was to Read the Scriptures;
- He was to Exhort with the Scriptures, and
- He was to Teach the Scriptures.

Timothy was to teach a Bible-based, public ministry.

Every Christian is to have a Bible-based ministry.

Sins – Bible-based

Serve – Bible-based

Teach – Bible-based

Nursery – Bible-based

Giving – Bible-based

A good pastor is to give sound teaching to all people at all times through all means.

That is the heart and soul of the ministry, since the Word is the only source of life and truth.

There is a biblical principle at work in Romans 2:21.

Before we teaches others, he must teach himself.

His spiritual progress is an example to his flock and an encouragement to others.

Timothy was to continue to do these things until the Apostle Paul showed up.

We are to continue to do these things until Jesus Christ shows up.

This brings us to our third principle:

- First – Our lives are to be an example
- Second – We are to give attention to our ministry, and

Principle #3 – We are to stop neglecting our **spiritual gifts**. In order to do that, we must be involved in the local church and its ministries.

Vs. 14

Why would God say such a thing to the young preacher?

- Not all those who enter the ministry stay the course.
- Some leave the place God intended them to be.

Timothy was not beyond the temptation to do just that (1:3)

This indicates Timothy could actually be in danger of abandoning the ministry. He may have already been feeling such temptation.

Timothy had neglected to cultivate this gift which was so necessary to his spiritual progress and ministry and personal joy.

In fact, God had to admonish him again in II Timothy 1:6.

Not all those who have spiritual gifts are using them.

How many Christians have a least one spiritual gift? Each Christian has at least one spiritual gift.

In vs. 14, the word *gift* is the Greek word *charisma*.

It simply means “a gracious gift from God.” A grace gift – undeserved. When this gift is administered appropriately, it will bring great joy to the believer. That is how you know what your spiritual gift is.

These spiritual gifts are bestowed by God at the moment of conversion and there are a variety, a diversity of gifts.

It’s encouraging to know that the God who saves us also equips us to do His work.

Christians, we can not be passive; we must cultivate God’s gifts, use them, and develop them in the ministry of the local church.

Timothy was shying away from using his spiritual gifts. Why?

II Timothy 1 gives us insight into the pressures Timothy faced at Ephesus:

- Timothy was a young man.
- He faced some formidable foes in the Ephesians. Not everyone in church is glad that you are there.

Apart from such external pressures were the internal temptations.

We can see those in II Timothy 2.

To encourage Timothy to remain faithful, Paul gave him three motives for not abandoning the ministry in vs. 14.

First, he reminded him of **the spiritual gift** within him. God gave it – you must use it.

Every Christian has a spiritual gift or gifts. God sovereignly decided to give those to us at the moment of our salvation. The Bible lists some of these gifts but the list is not exhaustive.

Second, Timothy's gift was confirmed objectively.

There was a public affirmation of his gift through direct revelation from God. We already studied this before in 1:18.

How are we going to know whom we should send to pastor Faith Community Bible Church and the next church plant? Acts 13 – God will tell us; He will show us and it will be evident to everyone.

The Holy Spirit said, separate Barnabas and Paul for the work unto which I have called them.

Finally, Timothy's gift was confirmed through **the laying on of hands by the presbytery** – literally the elders.

Timothy's call to the ministry was confirmed, by means of his spiritual gift and, collectively, through the affirmation of the church.

How do we know what our ministry should be? – By our spiritual gifts and affirmation from the believers at church.

For Timothy to bail out of the ministry would be to fly in the face of that clear consensus.

Paul urges him to remain faithful to his calling:

- Do not neglect the gift that is in thee – use it for the glory of God

Christians:

- Let our lives be an example
- Let us give attention to our personal ministry
- Let us not neglect our spiritual gifts.

The Ministry We Give

Let us stand for closing invitation.