

## I Timothy 4, Sermon #6

I Timothy 4

Today, Lord willing, we will finish this chapter and our three-part series.

There are five principles of personal instruction given to Pastor Timothy – these are found beginning in vs. 12-16.

If you remember the first message was “The Example We Set”

The second message was “The Ministry We Give” – two more principles

And I have entitled the 3<sup>rd</sup> message “The Life We Live”

Under this title we will cover Principles 4 & 5

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 Life We Live”

**Principle #4** – We are to give ourselves in total commitment to Christ and His Word

Let me show you how to do that!

Vs. 15

Meditate – generally we think of meditation taking place in what part of our body?

Our head

However, meditation means much more than just thinking about things with our head

Meditate carries the ideas:

- of making plans, how many of us have lunch plans already made? I have made plans to eat.
- of thinking,
- of devising ways,
- of engaging the intellect

Meditation is contemplation for application – We can’t be just hearers of the Word but doers of it.

Vs. 15 – He was to meditate – make plans and ways of implementing the instructions.

The Word of God is not for us just to know but for us to practice.

Meditation is thinking through these truths – practically!

Meditate on these things. What things? The teaching that God is giving thru Paul.

What is he saying? What does this mean to me?

It is true the mind is involved in all Christian growth

Romans 12:2, *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

God wants to change us by restoring our minds.

By the renewing of your mind –

How many of us have had to go to the mall and retake a driver’s examination? What is the purpose of redoing that every 6 years or so?

Renewing the mind with the written instructions.

Meditation is not just thinking about these things, but how to live it.

We cannot be transformed into the character of Christ without sound doctrine

We will never be like the Living Word without being in the written Word

Now meditation can go on all day long!

Turn in your Bible to Psalm 1:2 – doth he meditate

Turn to Joshua 1:8

- Ps. 63:6 – meditate on thee in the night watches;
- Ps. 77:12 – meditate on the work of God;
- Ps. 119 – meditate on God’s precepts, principles, statutes – His Word

Now turn back to I Timothy 4:15 – Not only is he to meditate, he was to give himself wholly – **Devote himself fully to the Word of God.**

Be in it – Timothy, give thyself to these things. Be submerged

In what? -- The teaching / instruction that God is giving.

A godly man or woman must have a consuming devotion to the Word.

This phrase emphasizes being totally engulfed.

A good pastor is consumed by the Word of God.

Timothy's spiritual life and his ministry were to be the absorbing, controlling things in his life, not merely sidelines that he occasionally practiced.

This is what separates most Christians. There are 2 things that I see:

Lack of walking in the Spirit

Lack of commitment by God's people

There can be no real advance in one's life spiritually unless there is total dedication to the task.

"No man can serve two masters" (Matt. 6:24).

So, make a total commitment to God.

If you will do this, the Bible says, your profiting will appear to all – vs. 15b

Your life will be made known – it literally means to shine.

The word *profiting* is a military term – it means progress, advancing.

Profiting was used in military terms to speak of an advancing force.

It describes the soldiers who go ahead of the troops, clear away the obstacles, and make it possible for others to follow.

As a Godly pastor, Timothy was to give himself in total commitment to Christ so that the whole church could see his spiritual progress and imitate it and follow him.

A good pastor is progressing in spiritual growth.

Every Christian should be making progress in his / her spiritual life.

Vs. 15 – it will appear to all. We should ask those around us if they see progress in our spiritual advancement.

Another thing that this teaches us, lest anyone think that a person must be flawless or perfect, God mentions the necessity of spiritual **progress**.

No Christian is yet all that he should be.

He is to be growing, progressing, moving forward.

Even the apostle Paul admitted his need to grow in grace (Phil. 3:12-14). “pressing, striving.”

A good pastor is to be advancing to Christ-likeness, and his people should be able to mark his progress.

No pastor can lead his people where he has not been himself.

The Christian who is not growing is actually going backward, for it is impossible to stand still in the Christian life.

In his living, the Christian must give genuine evidence of spiritual growth.

Meditate on these things – give thyself wholly to them or literally – be in them – be submersed in these things.

Now at the end of vs. 15 – God gives us the result.

He says if this goes on in your life – then your profiting, your progress shall appear to everyone.

**Principle #4** – We are to give ourselves in total commitment to Christ.

**Principle #5** – We are to examine ourselves and our teachings – we have blind spots. That’s why it is important as a Christian to be humble and to be teachable. We can deceive ourselves – we can become out of balance.

Vs. 16a

**This means to take Spiritual Inventory**

### **The Concluding Exhortation – 4:16**

God wraps up his charge to Timothy commanding him to **pay close attention to himself and his teaching.**

Paul had given this same warning to the Ephesian elders in his farewell message: “Take heed therefore unto yourselves” (Acts 20:28).

A Christian can be so busy helping others that he neglects himself and his own spiritual walk.

How does Pastor Timothy feed his congregation without it becoming monotonous, boring and running dry?

Timothy is instructed to give careful attention to two things—himself and to what he was teaching.

Balance – some pastors emphasize themselves – their families and they should, to a certain extent.

Some pastors emphasize the teaching and the work and labor in the Word and they should, to a certain extent. Overboard and lost their families.

God intends the balance here – these two things: his behavior, and his beliefs are linked so closely together that you can hardly separate them

A man's belief determines his behavior, actions, lifestyle – but his lifestyle tells you what he believes.

These are yoked very closely together and every pastor must give himself to both of them

If there is no nurture in his own soul, then he loses motivation.

If he doesn't work on his own life, there will be no harvest

One of the greatest tragedy in the ministry today is that ministers have ceased to grow.

The man who does not care for his own life first is the man who will have nothing to teach.

His words will lack fire because there has been no burning in his own soul.

Take heed unto yourself.

There are several instructions to the man of God regarding his taking heed to his doctrine.

This is how the minister takes heed to his doctrine:

First – in vs. 6 – He is nourished up in the words of the Christian faith.

Second – in vs. 7 – He refuses profane and old wives' fables.

Third – in vs. 13

**Vs.16b – continue in them**

Be diligent in your study.

There is no excuse for a minister not to study the Word of God, and there is no excuse for any Christian not to study the Word of God. (1 Tim. 4:16)

God have mercy on the minister who is not giving out the Word of God!

That is a frightful sin.

When we fail to do this, the pulpit becomes dead

Take heed to our doctrine so that truth can be converted into life.

The best preaching comes when the preacher has fed himself.

And a true man of God will concentrate on personal holiness and public instruction.

The benefit of so doing is twofold, vs. 16: it will **insure salvation both** for the minister himself, and **for those who hear** him.

This Salvation here means salvation from the snares and traps of the world – of a wicked life.

How many pastors have fallen by the wayside in sin? Why? Vs. 16a.

Lost their families, lost their ministries or have become dry and ineffective

How many Christians have fallen into sin – for many, the reason why they fell was because of the unfaithfulness of their pastor.

Failure to live, failing to teach and preaching with conviction, rebuking and exposing.

A Godly pastor's life and faithful teaching of the Word will have a saving impact on those who hear him and for the believer, the same is true for you.

**“The Life We Live”**

Let us stand for closing invitation.



How many of you would say Pastor:

I know that I am not fully committed as I should be.

I have been struggling with this.

Recommit yourself today. Recommit your life today.

Meditate – make plans.

What are the things that are distracting and detouring me from being fully devoted?

Examine yourself. Take spiritual inventory.

You may have nothing to examine.

The Bible says for you to be sure that you are in the faith.

Are you saved?

I did not ask if you are religious.

Have you confessed your sinfulness and called on God to save you?

## Rear of Document

How much of our time? Finances? Talents?

That sermon is needed today, for we are seeing people having to leave the ministry because their lives have not kept up with their profession.

Moral problems, divorces, and other kinds of shameful conduct have destroyed many of God's servants.

"Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10:12).

The building up of the saved and the winning of the lost are the purposes for our ministry, to the glory of God.

But God must work in us before He can effectively work through us (Phil. 2:12-13).

As good ministers, we preach the Word: as godly ministers, we practice the Word; as growing ministers, we progress in the Word.