

A GOOD MINISTER OF JESUS CHRIST – PART 2

1 Timothy 4:11-16

INTRODUCTION

- Timothy was a man who understood what it meant to be a Christian. He had suffered, sacrificed and served the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Paul wanted him to continue living that Christian life; to continue being conformed to the image of Christ, walking in godliness.
- When we come to verses 11-16 the focus moves from the minister's personal life to look more at his public life.
- These things (6-16) should be found in the life of every believer.
- What the minister *must* be, every Christian *should* be.
- Paul does not merely *advise* Timothy to do certain things, but gives him direct *commands* to follow.

What does a good minister of Jesus Christ do?

I. HE CONDUCTS THE FLOCK OF GOD (11-12)

A. By preaching (11)

1. Command

- a. This requires boldness (2 Timothy 1:7)
- b. This word is from military language
- c. The church ought to be disciplined as an army (Colossians 2:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:14)

2. Teach (1 Timothy 3:2; 2 Timothy 2:24)

B. By example (12)

1. The reality of criticism
 - a. Criticism is only legitimate if it is based on Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16; Galatians 2:11)
 - b. God has often used the young to accomplish His will
 - c. Old age does not guarantee wisdom (cf. Proverbs 16:31)
2. The response to criticism – a good example
 - a. Word (speech) (James 3:8; Psalm 141:3; Ephesians 4:29. 31; Colossians 4:6; Psalm 19:14)
 - b. Conversation (manner of life) (Phil 1:27; 1 Peter 1:18)
 - c. Charity (love) (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)
 - d. Spirit (fervour) (Romans 12:11)
 - e. Faith (faithfulness) (1 Corinthians 4:2)
 - f. Purity (1 Timothy 5:2)

II. HE CULTIVATES FURTHER GROWTH (13-15)

- A. Through the word of God (13)
 1. Reading
 - a. Private and public reading of Scripture
 2. Exhortation
 - a. This word is elsewhere translated as “comfort” (2 Corinthians 1:4; 7:4,13) and “intreaty” (2 Cor 8:4)
 - b. The minister must not only read the Scripture but expound it in a way that it may be practised in the lives of the hearers

3. Doctrine

B. Through using his spiritual gift (14)

1. Timothy's gift was recognised in his ordination (cf. 2 Timothy 1:6)
2. God equips His people to do His work (1 Corinthians 15:9–10; Philippians 4:13; 1 Timothy 1:12)
3. What are you doing with the gifts He has given you? (cf. Matthew 25:14-30)

C. Through full devotion to Christ (15)

1. This begins with the mind ("*meditate*") (1 Peter 1:13; Psalm 19:14)
2. We are to be *completely* given to God's service (Titus 2:14; Romans 12:1)
3. Like Stephanus' house, who "addicted themselves to the ministry" (1 Corinthians 16:15)
4. The profit of godliness should be evident to others
 - a. There is a profit in being godly (4:8)
 - b. There is no such thing as "secret religion"
 - c. We are all setting an example, either to avoid, or to emulate.

III. HE CONTINUES IN THE FAITH UNTO GODLINESS (16)

A. He must take heed

1. To himself (Acts 20:28)
2. To the doctrine
 - a. This requires serious study (2 Timothy 2:15)

- b. This requires the guidance of the Holy Spirit (1 John 2:27)
 - c. This requires diligent meditation (Psalm 119:97,99).
- B. He must continue in the faith
- 1. The natural tendency in each of us is to go backwards (Revelation 2:4)
 - 2. Many that begin well finish poorly (2 Timothy 4:10)
- C. A faithful minister saves both himself and his hearers
- 1. This “salvation” does not refer to being justified with God (cf. Ephesians 2:8-9)
 - 2. It refers to deliverance from doctrinal and moral apostasy
 - 3. It refers to deliverance from being spiritually empty and barren instead of nourished and fruitful (4:6).
 - 4. It refers to deliverance from falling into temptations and snares (1 Timothy 6:9).
 - 5. It refers to deliverance from having no rewards in the next life (1 Timothy 6:12,19).
 - 6. This refers to deliverance from becoming a castaway and being laid aside from the ministry (1 Corinthians 9:27).
 - 7. Note the vital importance of hearing sound Bible teaching from faithful ministers

CONCLUSION

- 1. God expects inner godliness AND outward godliness
- 2. Our lives should be exemplary as ambassadors of Jesus Christ
- 3. Can we say we are “wholly given” to the service of our Lord?