

1 Timothy

CHAPTER 4:6-11

Lesson 8

Paul knew the heart of Timothy to be one that desired to be *a godly minister of Jesus Christ*. In this section of 1 Timothy, Paul presented Timothy with behaviors and attitudes that should be lived out not only by Timothy, but by anyone who desires to be *godly*. May we be among them.

Read 1 Timothy 4:6-11

1. Read through this week's verses using at least two different Bible translations or paraphrases. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. The contrasting word, *but*, is used two times in this section. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.
3. Paul's desire was that Timothy be a *good minister of Jesus Christ* (verse 6). List Paul's admonitions to him that would help Timothy in this area.

Read 1 Timothy 4:6

1. Paul began this verse with the words, *If you instruct the brethren in these things*. A pastor's primary responsibility is to *instruct*. Define the word *instruct*.
 - a. We may assume that instruction is limited to formal behind-the-pulpit type teaching. What other ways can a pastor *instruct*?
 - b. Consider Jesus, the best of all *instructors*. What are some examples He left with us regarding how to *instruct*?
2. Read the next phrase, *minister of Jesus Christ*. Why is it important, not only for pastors, but for all believers, to remember that our priority is Jesus?
3. Paul referred to himself as a *steward* in 1 Corinthians 4:1,2. What did he say was *required of a steward*?
 - a. Who looks to you as an example of Jesus that you feel responsible to?
 - b. Why is *faithfulness* important?
4. A *good minister* is not only to instruct. What components are necessary in his personal life?

- a. Meditate on the word *nourished*. Write a few thoughts describing the journey of feeling like there was no benefit in studying God's word to being nourished by it.

Note: Most of us have been in that place of struggling to *nourish* ourselves in His word. If this is still difficult for you, know you are not alone. Take a few minutes and ask God to touch your perspective.

- b. Write the expectations of the last phrase of verse 6 in your own words.

- 1.) Define the word *carefully* as it relates to this verse.

- c. Why are these crucial for a pastor to follow?

Read 1 Timothy 4:7

1. According to verse 7, what are we to reject?

- a. Paul had similar instructions for Titus. What did he write in Titus 1:13,14?

2. Paul has strong concerns about *profane* people and *profane* conversations. He used the word 4 times in his letters to Timothy. The word *profane* speaks of a threshold. Thus, in terms of Paul's use, *profane* conversations should be refused as they should not be allowed to cross the threshold of a church; they should not be a part of the believer's life. What is Paul's reasoning according to 2 Timothy 2:16?

- a. Explain how this can happen.

3. How would you determine what is a *profane and old wives' fable*?

4. In contrast, what are we to do?

a. Using the analogy of beginning an *exercise* program, describe what Paul is encouraging.

b. Describe Paul's use of the word *exercise* in Acts 24:16 (KJV).

1.) What kind of *exercise* is crucial if we are to have a *good conscience, void of offense toward God, and toward men*?

Personal: In what area of your life do you need to do more *exercise*?

What will you do to start your new *exercise* program?

Read 1 Timothy 4:8

1. Continuing the thought of verse 7, Paul compared the profit of *bodily exercise* to the profit of *exercise in godliness*. Both are *profitable*. What is *profitable* about:

bodily exercise

godly exercise

