

Lessons From I Timothy

Preachers Trained In The Words Of Faith

(I Ti 4:6-16)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greetings...
 2. Series of “Lessons From I Timothy.”
 - a. Last week we noticed “Some Will Depart From The Faith.”
 - i. **I Ti 4:1** “Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons”¹
 - b. This week we will be examining “Preachers Trained In The Words Of Faith.”
 - i. **I Ti 4:6** “If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.”
 3. Paul, having just informed Timothy that there would be some that would depart from the faith and teach false doctrines, tells Timothy that...
 - a. Teaching against such things will make him a “good minister or servant” of Christ.
 - i. This flies in contrast to what far too many so called preachers are saying today.
 - b. In a show entitled “Preachers Of LA” there is a scene where one of the preachers, Mr. Haddon, mentions he and his **soon to be wife** are pregnant with their second child.
 - i. The man who was performing Mr. Haddon’s wedding Mr. Haizlip asked him about concerning this premarital conception.
 1. Mr. Haddon’s response, “be careful of that judgmental spirit... You’re not perfect, Jay...stop it!”²
 - c. Mr. Haddon’s response is typical of the unbiblical view point of Jesus’ teachings in **Mt 7:1ff** and contradicts what Paul is telling Timothy in **I Ti 4:6**.
 4. Paul continues by saying Timothy is able to teach against false doctrines and teachers as a good servant of Christ because he has been “trained in the words of faith and of the good doctrine.”
 - a. Preachers can preach against false teachers and false doctrines if they...
- I. Do Not Get Caught Up In Silly Myths (7-11)**
- A. Preachers can get caught up in silly myths that are irreverent
 1. There appears to be a similarity here to that which is found in **I Ti 1:4**.
 - i. “nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith.”
 2. The idea here is that preachers are not to waste their time on fables or myths i.e. fictional stories.
 - i. A preachers time is far too precious than to take on all the fictional stories of the past, present, or future.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

² Blog Article: Judge Not: Problems with Preachers of LA by Tejado Hanchell (<http://goo.gl/Lm7Nd5>)

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3. Example: There have been a hefty number of preachers that have spent a great number of hours writing and teaching against the “Harry Potter” movies and books.
 - i. Considering these books and the movies do not try and teach against the Scriptures or lead people away from the Scriptures this is a waste of time to deal with.
 4. Example: There have been many hours spent by preachers against the “Da Vinci Code” and “The Golden Compass” books and movies.
 - i. Now these books specifically try and undermine the Word of God and God himself and as such should be dealt with promptly.
- B. Preachers therefore must train for godliness.
1. The Greek word for “train” here is “γυμνάζω” or “gym-a-zo.”
 - i. This Greek word is where we get our English word gymnasium.
 - ii. This Greek word is in the present tense which means continual action.
 2. Godliness is “religious devotion and dedication to God.”³
 - i. This training the mind in God’s Word.
 - a. **He 5:14** “But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”
 - ii. This is training the physical body by way of applying God’s Word.
 - a. **I Co 9:27** “But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.”
- C. Thus...
1. Paul desired Timothy not to track down every myth and fable but to train himself in godliness.

II. Do Not Let Others Despise Apparent Weakness (12-13)

- A. Preachers are often perceived to have many differing weaknesses that are not there
1. Over the years I have personally found that which Paul writes to be true of most if not all preachers from those whom they serve.
 - i. Whenever preachers preach on attendance these are some common things people say.
 - a. “He just doesn’t know what it is like to work all day and then still come to services.”
 - b. “He only sits at his books all day and doesn’t know what it is like to work manual labor each and every day.”
 - c. “He doesn’t put in the hours like I do he only works on Sunday and Wednesday.”
 - ii. Whenever a young preacher preaches on “raising kids” he can often hear others say things like...
 - a. “What can he know about raising kids, his kids are still young?”
 - iii. Whenever an older preacher preaches on “modern issues” you hear...
 - a. “What does he know he is old and out of touch now.”

³ Notes on I Timothy by WVBS pg. 65

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2. These are simply a few of the perceived weaknesses of preachers are thought to have.
 - i. Paul tells Timothy don't worry about perceived weaknesses and rise above them by being an excellent example to those that would say otherwise.
- B. Preachers therefore must train themselves in...
 1. Proper speech.
 - i. A preacher must train his speech to be above reproach so others can follow.
 - a. Truthfully every person's speech is a gateway to their heart and as such they are to guard it making sure they have seasoned their speech with salt.
 - ii. Remember we will be justified or condemned by our words.
 - a. **Mt 12:36-37** "I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, 37 for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."
 2. Proper conduct
 - i. A preacher must train his conduct to be worthy of the gospel of Christ.
 - a. **Ph 1:27** "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel"
 - ii. This means he must be living the sermons he his preaching.
 3. Proper love
 - i. A preacher must train himself to actively...
 - a. Loving the Lord with his all.
 1. **Mt 22:37** "And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."
 - b. Loving his brethren with a pure heart.
 1. **I Pt 1:22** "Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart"
 - c. Love those that make themselves his enemies.
 1. **Mt 5:44** "But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"
 - d. Love those that are spiritually dead in their sins.
 1. **Ga 6:1** "Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted."

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4. Proper faith
 - i. A preacher must train his faith in the Lord to such an extent that it inspires others to have such faith.
 - a. **II Ti 1:12** "...But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me."
 5. Proper purity
 - i. A preacher must train in purity around the older and younger women.
 - a. **I Ti 5:2** "older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity."
- C. Therefore...
1. Paul told Timothy to rise above the ignorance of others and train himself to be a shining example of righteousness to all that would hear him preach.

III. Understand Their Strengths & Weaknesses (14)

- A. Preachers can forget their strengths when trying to bolster their weaknesses
1. To the detriment of their strengths preachers can focus so much on those things that are lacking in their lives they forget to mature in what they are already strong in.
 - i. To be clear here the "gift" given to Timothy is a miraculous gift which we find in **II Ti 1:6**.
 - a. **II Ti 1:6** the gift was given "through" the laying on of hands of Paul.
 1. Thus Paul passed this gift on to Timothy.
 - b. **I Ti 4:14** the gift was given "with" the laying on of the hands.
 1. Thus the elders accompanied Paul as he laid his hands on Timothy to give him the gift.
 2. Though preachers today do not have miraculous gifts they can neglect their strengths.
- B. Preachers therefore must train themselves in both their strengths & weaknesses
1. This means utilizing and maturing in that which they already do well.
 - i. If a preacher is a good speaker he can work on any number of improvements to his technique.
 - a. Hand gestures, illustrations...
 2. This means taking and maturing his weaknesses.
 - i. If a preacher is weak in connecting with the members he needs step up his visitation.
 - ii. If a preacher is weak in teaching the difficult subjects he needs to preach more on them.
- C. Thus...
1. Paul told Timothy to not neglect the gift you have, mature it and develop it into maturity.

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IV. Understand They Need Practice (15-16)

- A. Preachers can get into a rut if not careful
 - 1. By rut I mean preachers can get into a daily patten that is void of personal focus towards a greater goal. In other words they can get tied down to a slavish schedule.
 - i. Example: Monday: AM Sermon; Tuesday: PM Sermon...
- B. Preachers therefore must keep a watchful eye on themselves and continually practice godliness
 - 1. I had a coach tell me one time practice doesn't make perfect, however perfect practice does make for perfect.
 - i. Thus a preacher must make sure he is striving to perfectly practice his godliness and not get into a ho-hum convenience.
 - a. This is the idea behind Paul telling Timothy to "immerse" himself in this practice.
 - 2. Preachers must strive to perfectly practice godliness by...
 - i. Warning others of apostasy and those that would teach such.
 - ii. Striving for those things that are necessary to be a good servant of Christ.

CONCLUSION

- 1. As Paul concluded this section of exhortation to his fellow preacher Timothy he had this to say, "...Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers."
 - a. Brothers and sisters not only make sure the preacher persists in this but also make sure you do as well.
- 2. Question: Are you striving to perfectly live a godly life?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
- 3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**