

Succeeding as a Good Servant

Introduction and Review (*1 Timothy 4:6-11, 1:3; 1 Corinthians 16:10-11; 2 Corinthians 11:28*)

1. Success Comes Through _____ (*1 Timothy 4:12; Proverbs 16:18, 10:19, 18:13, 10:32*)
2. Success Comes Through _____ (*1 Timothy 4:13; Luke 4:16-17; Nehemiah 8:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 5:27*)
3. Success Comes Through _____ (*1 Timothy 4:14, 1:18; 2 Timothy 1:6; 1 Peter 4:10*)

4. Success Comes Through _____ (1 Timothy 4:15, 10; Proverbs 6:6-11)

5. Success Comes Through _____ (1 Timothy 4:16, 1:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Matthew 24:13; 1 John 2:19)

Discussion Questions (1 Timothy 4:11-16)

1. Review 1 Timothy 4:6-10. What characteristics of a good servant do you see in these verses?
2. In 1 Timothy 4:11-16 Paul continues to instruct and encourage Timothy in being a good servant, but he speaks directly to Timothy's situation. How do the following verses help us understand Timothy and his ministry in Ephesus? (1 Timothy 1:3, 4:12a, 5:23; 1 Corinthians 16:10-11)
3. What is your natural reaction when you are despised (looked down on) for any reason? How did Paul instruct Timothy to react to being despised for his youth? (1 Timothy 4:12) How would following Paul's instructions lead Timothy to success in ministry?
4. For Timothy to be successful in ministry, what was his central focus to be? (1 Timothy 4:13) How does "the public reading of Scripture" relate "to exhortation, to teaching" (preaching)? Why is the word of God so important in the life and ministry of all believers?
5. How does Paul both warn and affirm Timothy's call to ministry? (1 Timothy 4:14) Why is it important for Timothy, and us, to use the gifts that God has given us? (1 Peter 4:10)
6. How does "practice" and "immersion" (hard work) in godliness, the word, and using gifts lead to success/progress in life and ministry? (1 Timothy 4:15, 10; Proverbs 6:6-11) What areas of godliness or ministry do you need to "practice" and "immerse" yourself in?
7. Why is it crucial to persist in "keeping a close watch on yourself (your godliness) and your teaching (your doctrine, your service to the Lord)"? (1 Timothy 4:16) What does Paul mean by "for by so doing (persisting) you will save both yourself and your hearers"? (Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Timothy 1:16; Matthew 24:13; 1 John 2:19)