

Fight the Good Fight
1 Timothy 4:6-10 (Week 13) 01/18/2026
The Practices of a Good Servant

This is my message written prior to being preached. Please excuse the bullet point format and any grammatical mistakes. This is meant to be spoken.

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. ⁷ Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; ⁸ for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. ⁹ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. ¹⁰ For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. (1 Timothy 4:6-10)

Introduction and Review

- In **Matthew 25**, we find “**The Parable of the Talents**”. (a talent is large sum of money).
- In **this Parable Jesus illustrates** the importance of wisely using the **resources** God provides.
- **Let me summarize.**
- A man who had **three servants** was going on a journey.
- But before he left, **he distributed some talents**.
- To one servant he **gave 5**, to another **2**, and to another **1**.
- And while he was gone, the servant he’d given 5 talents, **invested and doubled his resources**.
- As did the **one he’d given 2 talents**.
- But the servant he’d given **1 talent**, dug a hole and buried it.
- And when the man returned to settle accounts,
- he **punished** the servant who did nothing **with his talent**.
- But he rewarded both **servants** who’d wisely invested the talents he had given them.
- **To both men he said the same thing (and this is what I want us to see) ...**

^{21, 23} ...‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ (Matthew 25:21, 23)

- **Well done, good and faith servant**
- These are words that true **Christians** long to here from their **Master Jesus Christ**.
- Jesus has given us resources (time, talents and treasure) and we are to invest them well.
- We are to wisely use what God has given us, that we too might be **good and faithful servants**.
- And this is **what Paul wanted for Timothy**, that his **Son in the faith** would...

⁶ ...be a good servant of Christ Jesus... (1 Timothy 4:6)

- That Timothy would wisely use his talents, his life for God’s purposes and Glory.
- And so, **after instructing him** on the importance of **fighting against Bad Theology**,
- Paul then turns to **instruction about being a good servant of Jesus Christ**.

- And these are instructions that **all of us should hear and apply to our lives.**
- Because **all Christians** are **servants of Jesus Christ.**
- That word **servants** is the Greek word *di-a-ko-nos*,
- which you should recognize from our study of **deacons**, in chapter **3 of 1 Timothy.**
- **Di-a-ko-nos (deacon)** simply means **servant.**
- **And as servants of Jesus Christ, we must seek to be good servants.**
- Do you want to be **a good servant of your master**, Jesus Christ?
- Do you want to **serve the one** who **became a servant and gave his life for you?**
- Then we need to ask what **it takes** to be a **good servant of Jesus Christ?**
- **Certainly**, it involves **developing and using the talents/resources** God has given us.
- But what does that look like practically?
- Well, our passage for today **goes a long way to answer that question.**
- In these **5 verses** Paul gives Timothy and us **three practices** that make for a good servant.
- Do these things to the best of your God given ability and you too will hear Jesus say...
- **“Well done good and faithful servant... *Enter into the joy of your master*”**
- **And the first practice of a good servant is to...**

1. Engage in Good Teaching

- In **verse 6** we read...

⁶ If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus... (1 Timothy 4:6)

- The word **“brothers”** could be **brothers and sister**, the family of God.
- Basically, Paul is saying ***if you put these things before the church,***
- If you teach these things to the church, ***you will be a good servant of Jesus Christ.***
- And what are **“these things”**? Well, Paul could be referring to all of **1 Timothy**,
- which Timothy certainly needed to teach to the whole church.
- But more specifically Paul was referring to the **preceding verses.**
- **Verses 1-5 of chapter 4, which we looked at last week.**
- **There we saw that** at least some of what was being put before the brothers was **bad theology.**
- **Theology** that originated with **deceptive demons**, was communicated by **lying leaders**,
- and resulted in Apostasy, people **abandoning the Christian faith.**
- **And** the specific **bad theology** that these lying leaders were teaching was **asceticism.**
- **Self-denial** as a means to achieve some kind of **works righteousness.**
- Specifically, these men...

³ ...forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods... (1 Timothy 4:3)

- Now to refute the **asceticism of these false teachers**,
- Paul turns to **Scripture**.
- And shows that we should have a **grateful, receptive attitude** toward everything God has made.
- We see this in **verse 4 of chapter 4...**

4 For everything created by God (including marriage and food) is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, (1 Timothy 4:4)

- So that's a summary of what Paul had just taught Timothy.
- And so, in **verse 6** Paul tells Timothy...

If you put these things specifically a Biblical explanation and refutation of Bad theology before the brothers (the church), you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus

- And what this means is, being a good servant of Jesus Christ includes putting Biblical truth before the church, **engaging in good teaching**.
- **And this applies** especially to **leaders** like Timothy.
- But it also applies to **every servant of Jesus Christ**.
- Whether you are **teaching your children or other children**,
- Whether you are **teaching in a small group or discipling someone one on one**.
- **A good servant will teach the truth of God's word**.
- **And in this specific context** that would include **teaching truth in order to correct error**.
- A good servant teaches good (biblical) theology to refute bad (unbiblical) theology.
- That's what Paul did in **verses 1-5 of Chapter 4**.
- And so, when a good servant engages in good teaching, he or she is **also defending the faith** against error, false doctrine.
- Now in the church, defending the faith is done in two basic ways.
- **First**, and normally, a leader in the church must provide a Biblical foundation for the faith.
- This is what Paul (in Acts 20) says he did in **Ephesus**, prior to putting Timothy in charge.
- Speaking to the Ephesian elders he said...

27 ...I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27)

- Paul as a good servant of Jesus Christ, engaged in teaching all of God's word to the church.
- He didn't just pick and choose the verses that would make the points he wanted to make.
- Instead, he over time taught it all, **laying a solid sound Biblical foundation within the church**.
- And this results in, among other things, Christians being able to recognize and refute **false doctrine when it comes along**.
- **When you know the truth (from good teaching) you can recognize and confront error**.
- And that takes us to the **second way a good servant defends the faith**.
- That is by **directly confronting and refuting from God's word, the specific false doctrine**.
- Again, that's what Paul did in **verses 1-5 of 1 Timothy 4** with the **bad theology of asceticism**.

- He was **blunt, bold and even harsh** about the **insidious** nature of **this false doctrine**.
- And if we want to be good servants of **Jesus Christ**, we must follow his example.
- But this can be difficult, because we live in a culture of “**tolerance**” ...
- Directly confronting and refuting **false doctrine with good teaching** is not always received well.
- While most Christians want to have the truth explained, not all are willing to confront errors.
- **For example, if I were to say, “Jesus is the only way to salvation,”**
- all God’s people would say **Amen!**
- But then suppose I took this to its **logical and Biblical conclusion**.
- and proceeded to **refute the false teachings** of other So Called Christian Groups who teach something different than salvation through faith alone in Jesus Christ.
- Showing that their teaching about who Jesus is, and the way to salvation is **not Biblical**.
- Pointing out that according to the Bible, **their teaching** is not only in error but actually originates from **deceptive demons**.
- That might not be met with **great enthusiasm**.
- **Well, that’s a bit narrow-minded, why do you have to be so negative.**
- Who are you to say you are right and someone else’s teaching is wrong (or demonic)?
- Well, I’m just want to be **a good servant of Jesus Christ**.
- Standing up for the truth of God’s word **and refuting false teaching**.
- That’s certainly what **Paul did** and what he wanted Timothy and all good servants to do.
- But if we’re going to do that, we should know,
- As **crucifixion of Christ (who also confronted false teaching)**
- and the **persecution of Paul** demonstrate,
- Engaging in Good Teaching will never meet with **universal approval**.
- But it will always meet with **divine approval**,
- for God’s Word states that a servant who **puts these things before the brothers is good**.
- So, a good servant will teach the word of God, they will confront false teaching, they will defend the faith.
- But before they do that they must be trained, **they must be equipped?**
- We see this in the **second half of verse 6...**

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. (1 Timothy 4:6)

- It certainly follows that if Timothy (or anyone) is to **engage in good teaching**.
- **He must first be trained by good teaching**.
- That word **trained** in the Greek is (**en-tre-pho**) and it literally means **to nourish**.
- **So**, Timothy was “nourished” in the words (truths) of the faith.
- **This probably reflects FIRST on his upbringing.**

- In **2 Timothy** Paul writes...

⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice... (2 Timothy 1:5)

- Timothy's **grandmother Lois** and his **mother Eunice** were Jewish converts to Christianity,
- and they had certainly **nurtured Timothy in the faith**.
- He'd been instructed in **the Old Testament, the law of God**.
- He'd been taught **the attributes of God, the history of salvation,**
- and the **promises of the coming Messiah**.
- Timothy had received a **great foundation** for being a **good servant of Jesus Christ**.
- And **this shows** the importance of **good teaching** in the home.
- Whether you are a **parent or grandparent, an uncle or aunt,**
- **a Sunday School Teacher or a friend...**
- A good servant will engage in **the good teaching of children**.
- In **his commentary** on this passage, **Richard D. Phillips** makes this point.

A good upbringing is worth years of seminary. It prepares the sons and daughters of the church to become good servants in every walk of life. It will make them good neighbors, citizens, artists, professionals, laborers, schoolteachers, parents, missionaries, and ministers. (Richard D. Phillips)

- So, as a **child Timothy** was...

being trained in the words of the faith and the good doctrine

- And this training **continued under the Apostle Paul**.
- If you remember, before he was a leader in Ephesus,
- **Timothy spent several years traveling with the Paul** on his missionary journeys.
- And during this time, he was certainly trained in **the words of the faith and good doctrine**.
- This would include the **essentials of the gospel and other doctrine**,
- Which was **first taught by Jesus** and then **his apostles, including Paul**.
- So, Timothy was trained (nourished) by good teaching from his mom, grandma,
- **Paul and probably others**.
- And we too must be **trained in the words of faith and good doctrine**.
- **Individually** we can read and study Paul's letters, and all of Scripture.
- But we must also expose ourselves to **good teaching**.
- We must be part of a group of brothers and sisters (a church) that has leader who...
- Teach the word of God (**the words of the faith and good doctrine**) in a humble, thoughtful way.
- **Not shrinking from declaring the whole counsel of God**.

- **And I pray that Bridges is that kind of church.**
- That I, as the pastor, and anyone who steps into this pulpit to teach and train the body,
- will speak the words **of faith and good doctrine**,
- words that will **not only help us** all recognize and refute **Bad Theology...**
- But **at the same time** will be used by God to **help us grow into good servants of Jesus Christ.**
- **Which by the way is a lifelong process.**
- We see this in the fact that the **Greek verb** for *being trained* is in the **present tense**,
- The implication is that **Timothy continued to be trained in biblical truth.**
- He was a **lifelong student** of Christian doctrine.
- He still followed the **good teaching** he received at home, from Paul and in the church.
- **And that should be true for us all.**
- If we desire to be good servants of Jesus Christ, we must be lifelong learners of God's word.
- We must engage in Good Teaching.
- That is, we must be trained in the word **through good teaching.**
- And we must communicate **the word by Good Teaching.**
- So **Good Teaching** is crucial for **the good servant of Jesus Christ.**
- But there's more to becoming a good servant than **earning a degree in theology.**
- In fact, Paul warns Timothy against becoming the wrong kind **of theologian.**
- At the beginning of **verse 7 we read...**

7 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths... (1 Timothy 4:7)

- So, what does Paul mean by **irreverent, silly myths.**
- Well, **Irreverent myths** may refer to the **gods and goddesses** of pagan **mythology.**
- Remember, Timothy preached in **Ephesus** where the goddess Diana was queen.
- The mention of **mythology** may also refer to **Jewish fables** about the lives of the **Old Testament saints.**
- **Silly myths** on the other hand **refer to superstitious beliefs.**
- For example, believing that **your zodiac sign has meaning**
- and reading the horoscope in the daily newspaper.
- Using tarot cards or a Ouija board,
- **fearing the number 666...**
- believing you will **become an angel when you die.**
- Or that you have an **angel on one shoulder and a devil** on the other.
- Believing the more money you give God, the more money he will give you.
- **or whatever...**
- Bottom line, these **irreverent silly myths** were contrary to the **words of faith and good doctrine**
- God is not in any of these things; **they are unbiblical and God-less.**
- **Therefore,** Timothy (and all believers) are to have nothing to do with them.

- I think the general principle is that a **good servant of Jesus Christ** does not speculate about matters not taught in Scripture.
- They refuse to **become distracted by irreverent, silly myths**, trivial ideas of the day.
- They do not allow **controversies in politics**, sports, education, or **even religion** to distract them from **solid biblical truth**.
- And instead of wasting time with **idle speculation, irreverent, silly myths...**
- A good servant of Jesus Christ, not only engages in good teaching but in...

2. Engage in Godly Training

- It takes **godly training** as well as **good teaching** to make a **good servant**.
- So, Paul says...

⁷ *Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; (1 Timothy 4:7)*

- Of all the things Paul wanted to say to Timothy, this must have been **the most important**.
- The word “**godliness**” (**eu-seb-eia in the Greek**) occurs **fifteen times** in the New Testament, but **nine of them** are in 1 Timothy.
- **As we have talked about several times, Paul’s purpose for this letter was that believers...**

¹⁵ *...may know how one ought to behave in the household of God... (1 Timothy 3:14)*

- And **the word** that best describes how we **ought to behave** is godliness.
- We are to behave in a **godly manner**.
- Now...

godliness means being Holy like God and Reverent Towards God.

- It encompasses both the respect that the believer owes to God.
- And what that respect for God looks like in their life.
- Because of **our reverence for God we live in a Godly, Holy, obedient Manner**.
- **This is godliness.**
- And it comes from the awareness that all of life is lived before the face of God.
- **Calvin thus called godliness *the beginning, middle and end of Christian living*.**
- The godly person places God at the **center of every part of their life**.
- God is in **the sleeping and the waking, the eating and the drinking, the coming and the going**.
- The godly person walks with God at home, at work, at church, at school, at play,
- And everyplace in between.
- Godliness includes **godly thoughts, godly speech, and godly behavior**.
- It is the attitude toward life that **David expressed when he said,**

⁸ *I have set the LORD always before me... (Psalms 16:8)*

- **Godliness** comes from a **God-centered life**.
- And above all else, **God wants his servants to be godly**.
- This is why Paul didn't give Timothy seven steps to boost church attendance,
- or helpful tips about becoming a better administrator.
- or even a **thorough critique of his preaching style**.
- Instead, he gave him the most practical instruction of all: **a good servant is a godly servant**.
- But **as we all know** by experience, **godliness does not happen automatically**.
- It requires difficult, diligent training.
- **In this respect**, taking care of the soul is much like taking care of the body.
- Paul made **this connection** when he told Timothy,

⁷ ...Rather train yourself for godliness; ⁸ for while bodily training is of some value... (1 Timothy 4:7-8)

- If you remember **in verse 6** Paul used the word trained (Greek *en-tre-phō*) which means to be nourished in or even educated in.
- But even though the **translators** used the same English word in verse 7,
- it is not the same Greek word.
- The word **train and training** here in **verses 7 and 8** are the Greek word ***gym-na-zō*** where we get our word **gymnasium**.
- AND the word literally means **to exercise naked** (which is what the Greeks did).
- **They were serious about their sports**.
- And that might be one reason why Paul, here and in other letters, **uses sports terminology**.
- His letters contain references to boxing, wrestling, track and field, and various kinds of athletics.
- Apparently, Paul knew something about sports.
- He certainly knew **that great athletes are made and not just born**.
- While most great athletes **have extraordinary natural abilities**,
- They also must make **a total life commitment to improving their speed, strength, and other athletic abilities**.
- **Competing at a world-class level** requires many years of **strenuous daily training**.
- **For example**, when the American skier **Picabo Street** had her first career-threatening knee injury in 1996, she had to learn how to ski all over again.
- It **took one year of one hundred percent commitment** to stretching, lifting, running, and skiing before she was ready for **1998 winter Olympics** where she won a gold medal in downhill skiing.
- And if such training is necessary for the body, **why should the soul be any different?**
- We must **do our spiritual exercises**.
- We must **train ourselves to be godly**.
- We must **become spiritual fitness freaks**
- No one else can do this for us... **But we do have help**.

- These days, if someone wants to get **their bodies in top condition**, they often hire a **personal trainer**.
- The trainer's job is to **set up, instruct and motivate** their client through a **series of exercises**,
- All designed to get **the client in shape**.
- And there's a sense in which every Christian has a personal trainer: **the Holy Spirit**.
- The Spirit who has **set up or inspired** the word of God,
- Then uses it to **instruct and motivate** the believer to **get in spiritual shape**.
- What makes people godly is the Spirit's work in our lives through reading, hearing, studying, meditating, memorizing **and applying the Bible**.
- And the Bible gives us many other ways to **get spiritual training**.
- We call these **Spiritual Disciplines**; we could call them **Spiritual Training or Exercise**.
- They include of course reading, studying meditating on, memorizing the word of God.
- But along with **Scripture** there are **other spiritual disciplines...**
- **Prayer**, conversing with God provides the fuel for a **Godly life**.
- **And fasting**, which is perhaps the most neglected of spiritual disciplines.
- **As well as the disciplines of ...**
- **Worship, Evangelism, Serving, Stewardship and others**.
- All of these spiritual disciplines (taken together) help train the **Christian to be godly**.
- **And we need them all, A good workout is a complete workout**.
- Now we don't have time to **go into each disciple**,
- so, I want to recommend **a Book for further study**.
- **Along with the Bible** this is the best training manual for godliness that I've ever read.
- It's titled... "**Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life**." Written by Donald Whitney
- I **have 5 copies** here for anyone who would like to read it... **see me after service**.
- The **first Chapter** is aptly titled "**The Spiritual Disciplines for the Purpose of Godliness**"
- In fact, **that's the theme of the entire book**.
- As **Whitney examines Scripture** and the **Spiritual disciplines** found there,
- He focuses on how **each disciple is meant to help the Christian grow in godliness**.
- Holiness and reverence for God.
- Which is exactly **what Paul wants for Timothy and all believers**.
- That we would **be trained for godliness**.
- And the result of all **this godly training is a godly life**.
- By themselves, **Spiritual Disciplines** do not guarantee godliness, which is a matter of the heart.
- But being disciplined in Scripture reading, prayer, fasting, evangelizing, serving, giving are the exercises that God has appointed for our **spiritual training**.
- By faith and the power of the Holy Spirit, these **spiritual disciplines** will produce the **spiritual fruit** of godliness.

- So the question is, do you want to be godly?
- I hope so, but if you're still unsure, Paul goes on to show that **godliness is of great value**.
- Let's read all of **verse 8**...

8 for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. (1 Timothy 4:8)

- Physical exercise has its place, it's good to have a **healthy body**,
- and so, it's appropriate for Christians to **play sports or work out at the gym**.
- **Physical training has value**.
- Notice, however, that it **only has "some value."** Bodily exercise has its limits.
- Here Paul probably had in mind the **sports craze in Ephesus**.
- Remember they were **so serious they exercised naked**.
- And **history records that they spent a great deal of time and money on sports...**
- **Sound familiar**.
- They invested their resources in training young athletes to **perform at pagan festivals**.
- So Paul says, don't get too enamored with sports (watching or playing)
- Because although sports has its place, **its benefits are strictly temporary**.
- Bodily exercise has value only for this life, **not for the life to come**.
- **William Shakespeare** made the same point **more poetically** in his **Sonnet 146**:

***Why so large cost, having so short a lease
Dost thou upon thy fading mansion spend?***

- Mansion here is a metaphor for the body.
- Why do you spend so much time and money on your physical body that won't last?
- **It's a fair question**.
- Eventually everyone dies, even great athletes, **even the GOAT, Tom Brady**.
- Even if someone **continues to play tennis or golf** (if that's a sport) into their eighties,
- They **cannot take their racket or clubs** with them to heaven.
- All the benefits of physical training **expire at death**. **On the other hand**,

godliness is of value in every way

- Godliness (living a holy reverence life) is valuable in all kinds of situations.
- It is valuable in the **home, the church, the job**.
- It is valuable both in times of **trouble and in times of prosperity**.
- In times of **sorrow and rejoicing**.
- It helps a person deal with enemies as well as friends.
- Godliness never goes out of fashion.
- It guides the believer in every situation.

- And there's more...

⁸ ...godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. (1 Timothy 4:8)

- Godliness is certainly valuable in this present life.
- But it also has great value, **great promise for the life to come.**
- I think of the quote by **Maximus** in the Movie the Gladiator...

What we do in life echoes in eternity. (Maximus)

- If we train to live godly lives now the impact will be felt in eternity.
- **First** it will be felt in our own eternity.
- We see this is Paul's letter to the **Corinthians:**

²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. (1 Corinthians 9:25)

- Not every athlete who trains for the Olympics wins a medal (or a laurel wreath, as champions wore in Paul's day).
- But everyone who **trains to be godly in this life**, will gain **an eternal crown of glory.**
- So, godliness (godly training) in **this life, echoes in our own eternity.**
- But it also echoes in **the eternity of others.**
- As we train and live godly lives, as we practice Spiritual Disciplines like evangelism,
- **As we represent God** and his ways in this life. As we engage in good teaching.
- People are impacted for all eternity.
- People come to Jesus, people grow in faith, **people grow in godliness.**

godliness holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come

- Physical training has **some temporal value**, but godliness has infinite eternal value.
- Therefore, **servant of Jesus Christ**, train yourself for godliness.
- And to **this truth Paul adds...**

⁹ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. (1 Timothy 4:9)

- Trust the value of godliness, **for it is eternal,**
- Accept **this truth, don't forget about it, don't ignore it,**
- **Receive it and let it inspire and motivate you to engage in godly training.**
- **To practice spiritual disciplines in your life.**
- Okay, we've seen that a good servant engages in good teaching and godly training.
- And as important as these things are, **they are not an end in themselves.**

- For the servant of Christ **engages in these things** that he or she might...

3. Engage in the Global Task

- In **verse 10** Paul concludes...

10 For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. (1 Timothy 4:10)

- The final thing it takes to **become a good servant** of Christ is commitment to **the global task of world evangelization**.
- **For this will certainly echo in eternity!**
- But it doesn't just happen.
- **Notice** Paul doesn't seek to gloss over the **difficulties of ministry**.
- Being a servant of Jesus Christ is **hard work with struggles**. It is full of **toil and strife**.
- **To toil** means to **work hard**, to even **experience fatigue from your work**.
- And that word **strive** is the Greek is *a-go-niz-o-mai* where we get our word **agonize, agony**.
- This continues the idea of **strenuous training** and even hints at **the sufferings of ministry**.
- But all this work **is worth the effort**.
- "No pain, no gain" was **one of Paul's principles** for effective service.
- The **agony is ecstasy**, it's all worth it, because...

we have our hope set on the living God

- **What is our hope?** Well, I hope you know.
- Our hope is set on the **living God** who sent his **Son Jesus Christ** to save us from our sin.
- We know that **Jesus Christ came and died** and rose from the dead and is seated at the right hand of God the Father.
- We know that through Christ's sacrificial death, **God will save us on the day of judgment**.
- And **having this hope (this assurance)**,
- The good servant of Jesus Christ will **make every possible effort** to share that message (the gospel) with **everyone else**.
- The good servant **toils and strives** (even if it is agony) to see men, women, and children receive eternal life.
- The good servant who has engaged in **good teaching and godly training** will have a burden for the **global task of saving lost souls**.
- Therefore, the good servant, on some level, in some way engage in **evangelism**.
- Because the good servant is the good servant **not of themselves** not of the world,
- But of Jesus Christ, **of the living God**...

who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe

- **Bottom line, Jesus is the savior and we are his servants.**
- Therefore, a good servant of Jesus Christ will engage in bringing the message of salvation to all people.
- This would include **praying that God would draw people to himself.**
- This includes **your own personal witnessing**, giving your testimony, telling people about Jesus.
- It includes inviting people to church or other places where they can hear the gospel,
- and you can help them respond to the gospel.
- It includes engaging in missions,
- helping to send and support missionaries to people and places have little or no Christian witness.
- A good servant of Jesus Christ, **the savior of the world**,
- toils and strives that all people around the world might hear the message of salvation.
- And that some people might believe.
- Now Paul's final words need a little explanation.
- What does he mean that the living God is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe
- This is the second time that Paul has described **God and Jesus as the Savior of all people.**
- The first instance came in **the second chapter:**

³ ...God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. (1 Timothy 2:3-6)

- As we talked about when we studied these verses,
- Paul did not mean that **God desired each and every human being who ever lived to be saved**,
- Or that **Christ gave himself as a ransom for all people who ever lived.**
- Both the grammar and the context of Scripture show that the meaning here is that...
- God desires **all kinds of people to be saved**, and Christ died for **all kinds of people**.
- The idea is not universalism; all people will be saved.
- but inclusivism, that God will save all kinds of people.
- That's what we find in the book of **Revelation**, that the Jesus Christ, the lamb of God

⁹ ...ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, (Revelation 5:9)

- So, this time when Paul writes...

the living God is the Savior of all people,

- He doesn't want there to be any misunderstanding,
- He is careful to clarify what he means.
- Because to say that God/Jesus is the Savior of all people could imply that all people will be saved.
- But Paul **was no universalist.**

- So here in **chapter 4** he goes on to say that **Jesus is the Savior...**

especially of those who believe

- The word “**especially**” does not mean there are **two kinds of salvation**.
- That there is some kind of limited salvation **for all people**
- And a **special better salvation** for those who believe.
- While the word “especially” (**mal-is-ta** in the Greek) can mean **especially**,
- **Recently Greek Scholars** have found it can also mean “**certainly**” or “**to be precise**,”.
- So, **based on grammar** and **in harmony with the rest of Scripture...**
- the verse should read as follows...

the living God, who is the Savior of all (kinds) people, (to be precise) of those who believe

- Again, Paul “is not saying that God saves believers more than he saves others;
- he is simply modifying his **general statement that God is the Savior of all kinds of people**,
- by adding the **limitation** that you **cannot be saved unless you believe**.
- So, based on, what I pray is our **Engaging in Good Teaching of God’s word**,
- Which teaches that only those who believe will be saved.
- The **Good Servant** who is also engaged in **Godly Training**
- Will **toil and strive to Engage in the Global Task**.
- And if you are not convinced of the need to engage in the global task by 1 Timothy,
- Then let me conclude **with two things that Jesus said**.
- In **John’s Gospel Jesus** makes it **very clear** who will be saved, and it ain’t all people...

¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (John 3:17-18)

- Couldn’t be much clearer than that, so let me bluntly apply this...
- Every person in the world, every person you know who does not believe in the name of the only Son of God, Jesus Christ, the savior of the world is already condemned because of their sin.
- **And what are they condemned to?**
- Well in Mathew’s gospel Jesus is very blunt... they are condemned to...

⁴¹ ...eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. (Matthew 25:41)

- And so don’t you think it’s worth some toil and strife to be a good servant of Jesus Christ.
- And tell as many people as we can **that He gave his life for them**.
- That Jesus Christ died on the **cross that their sins might be forgiven**.
- That Jesus Christ rose from the **dead conquering sin and death**.
- That Jesus Christ offers **eternal life** only to those who believe in Him.

- That...

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)

- Because He is the Savior of all people.
- That is to say, **he is the Savior of those who believe!**
- So, as we go from this place today, I would encourage you as I encourage myself to...
- Be a good servant of Jesus Christ...
- By, engaging in **Good Teaching**...
- In the church, make sure you are being trained (nourished) in the word **through good teaching**.
- And allow God to use you to nourish other believers in the word through **Good Teaching**.
- And then, flowing from the good teaching of God's word, **Engage in Godly Training**.
- In the power of God's Spirit, train yourself by diligently practicing the Spiritual disciplines...
- **that God has given for the purpose of Godliness.**
- And flowing from **Godly Training, the godliness that the Spirit has worked in your life.**
- **Engage in the Global Task.**
- Be a good servant of Jesus Christ by toiling and striving to proclaim that He alone is the savior of all who put their trust in HIM!
- **Pray...**