

# Let the Church Be the Church

## “The Church and Its Minister”

### I Timothy 4

This chapter begins with Paul identifying the condition of the church “in later times.” He says, “some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.” He then gives young Pastor Timothy (and us) some defenses against these conditions. A good Pastor will faithfully LEAD the church in the defense:

- I. A good Pastor is a SERVANT LEADER (v.6b “...you will be a good servant [deakonos] of Christ Jesus...”)
  - A. Notice the FOUNDATION for the Pastor’s service (v.6)
    1. He is always learning the WORDS OF SCRIPTURE (v.6c)
    2. He is always learning the PRINCIPLES OF SCRIPTURE (v.6d)
  - B. Notice the FORMATION of the Pastor’s service (vv.7-8)
    1. The PURPOSE for the Pastor’s discipline (v.7b)
    2. The PROMISE for the Pastor’s discipline (v.8)
  - C. Notice the FUTURE of the Pastor’s service (v.10)
    1. The Pastor serves with his HOPE IN A SOVEREIGN GOD (v.10a)
    2. The Pastor serves with his HEART FOR THE SOULS OF MEN (v.10b)
- II. A good Pastor is an EXEMPLARY LEADER (vv.11-12, esp. v.12d)  
“...show yourself an example of those who believe.”-five exemplary characteristics of a godly Pastor:
  - A. He is an example in WHAT HE SAYS (“in speech”)
    - Psalm 19:14
  - B. He is an example in HOW HE ACTS (“in conduct”)
    - Joshua 1:8
  - C. He is an example in HOW HE LOVES (“in love”)
  - D. He is an example in HOW HE BELIEVES (“in faith”)  
(over time, the church will believe what the Pastor believes)
  - E. He is an example in HOLY LIVING (“in purity”)-MORAL INTEGRITY!
    - Romans 6:12-14
- III. A good Pastor is a PUBLIC LEADER (vv.13-16)-certain expectations:
  - A. Public ministry involves the PUBLIC READING OF SCRIPTURE (v.13b “Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture...”)-READING!
    - Deuteronomy 31:11-12
  - B. Public ministry involves the POWERFUL PREACHING OF SCRIPTURE (v.13c “...give attention to ...exhortation...”)-PREACHING!
  - C. Public ministry involves POSITIVE TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE (v.13d “...give attention to ...teaching.”)-TEACHING!
  - D. Public ministry involves PERSISTENT DEVOTION TO SERVICE (vv.15-16 “...Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them...Pay close attention...”)-SERVING
    1. He serves DILIGENTLY (v.14a “Do not neglect...”)
    2. He serves AGGRESSIVELY (v.15 “Take pains...”)
    3. He serves TRANSPARENTLY (v.16a “Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching...”)
    4. He serves FAITHFULLY (v.16b “...persevere in those things...”)

The overriding goal of the Pastor and his ministry is to “...ensure salvation both for yourself and those who hear you” (v.16b). A good Pastor is (1) a SERVANT LEADER, (2) an EXEMPLARY LEADER, and (3) a PUBLIC LEADER. With this kind of Pastor “the church can be the church” that God planned from the beginning.