

Godly Men
1 TIMOTHY 4:7-8

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. If you have ever listened to his eloquent speeches... you would have to agree...that Winston Churchill... the Prime Minister of England during World War Two...was one of the greatest public speakers of the modern era.
- b. But Winston Churchill... was anything but a “natural” speaker.
- c. Churchill had a lisp...which made him the object of many jokes ... and resulted in his inability to be spontaneous in public speaking.
- d. Yet Churchill became famous for his speeches... and his seemingly impromptu remarks.
- e. The truth is ... Churchill wrote all of his speeches out... he even wrote out his supposedly impromptu speeches... and he practice almost everything he said in public.
- f. Churchill practiced his speeches endlessly in front of mirrors... rehearsing his body movements and facial expressions...even practicing his pauses...and his pretended fumbling for the right words.
- g. One of Churchill’s biographers wrote that... “Winston Churchill spent the best years of his life practicing his impromptu and spur-of-the-moment speeches.”
- h. The truth is... what made Winston Churchill the naturally gifted speaker that he appeared to be... was his discipline and hard work.
- i. It is good to be born with natural ability... but no person... no matter how naturally gifted they may be... can fulfill their potential and be a success... without discipline, dedication and hard work.
- j. Our own Roquan Smith is a gifted athlete... but Roquan would be the first to tell you that he was an All-American at the University of

Georgia ... and he is the first round draft choice of the Chicago Bears ... because of his dedication, discipline and hard work.

- k. Even people like Winston Churchill who are born with challenges and seemingly little natural ability or capacity...can be successful and do extraordinary things in life...through dedication, discipline and hard work.

II. DISCIPLINE IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE-

- a. Today we are going to talk about the importance of dedication, discipline and hard work in the Christian life... and since it is Father's Day ...we are especially going to challenge our Christian men.
- b. But before we talk about the place of dedication, discipline and hard work in the Christian life... there is one thing we must understand.
- c. When it comes to salvation... when it comes to being forgiven of our sins and made right with God... no one is saved by their own dedication, discipline and hard work.
- d. When it comes to salvation... no matter what we do... no matter how hard we work...we are helpless to save ourselves.
- e. When it comes to salvation... we are saved purely and wholly by God's grace and mercy... which He extends to us when we put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.
- f. No one is saved... by the works they have done or are doing.
- g. *Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV) "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."*
- h. While we are saved by grace... for us to grow as Christians... for us to advance in the Christian life... for us to be the Christians that God would have us to be... requires our dedication, discipline and hard work.

- i. Our salvation is free... but discipleship and becoming the Christian that God would have us to be... requires discipline and hard work.
- j. Today many professing Christians put little or no effort into their Christian life... they are satisfied with calling themselves a Christian ... they are satisfied with their name being on the roll... but they exhibit no interest in discipleship and in spiritual growth as Christians.
- k. They appreciate people who are interested in that kind of thing... but they are satisfied with just being a “normal” Christian...but they consider themselves in the faith and they are going no further.
- l. But here is the problem... if a professing Christian is not interested in growing as a Christian... if a professing Christian is not interested in Christian discipleship ... if a professing Christian is not interested in advancing in the Christian life... then they are probably not a Christian at all.
- m. I hope you realize...that not everyone who claims to be a Christian is one.
- n. A professing Christian who has no interest in growing in the Christian life and progressing in the Christian life... may be just that a “professing Christian” ... a Christian in name only... not a real Christian at all.
- o. When a person is truly born again... they are born again with a desire to worship God... they are born again with a desire to serve God... they are born again with a desire to fellowship with God’s people... they are born again with a desire to grow in Christ... to grow as a Christian.
- p. The normal Christian life... is not what many people think it is.
- q. The normal Christian life is not coming to church on Sunday morning... going home... and that is it... that is the total content of their Christian living.

- r. The normal Christian life is following Christ... growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ... growing in worship and service... and in love and fellowship with God's people.
- s. If a person has no desire to grow as a Christian... no desire to advance in the Christian life... they are either a lazy, backsliding Christian... or they are not a Christian at all.
- t. I don't question anyone's salvation... and it is not my task to try to make people doubt their salvation.
- u. But if a professing Christian has no desire to grow as a Christian... if a person is content to live the satisfied Christian life.
- v. Then I would encourage them to test themselves... I would encourage them to thoroughly examine themselves as to why they believe that they are a Christian... to see if their faith is real.

III. THE NEED FOR GODLY MEN-

- a. Of the needs facing the church in America today... none is greater than the need for godly men.
- b. A godly man is a man who puts God first and foremost in his life... a godly man is a man who loves God... who worships God... who serves God... who is faithful to God...who seeks to obey God in every area of his life.
- c. A godly man is a man of prayer... he is a man who reads, believes and tries his best to obey God's Word ... he loves the church... he supports the church... he is active in the church... he is involved in the church... he is faithful to the church.
- d. A godly man... seeks to live a holy, honest, clean and pure life.
- e. A godly man loves his family... if he is married, he is faithful to his wife... he is a good father to his children... he cares for his neighbor ... he is generous and kind... he is a friend to those who are in need.

- f. A godly man is a man that God can use to make a difference for Him ...in the church...in his home... in his community... and in the world.
- g. A godly man is a man who is advancing as a Christian... a man who is growing in the Lord.
- h. A godly man may have a passion for many things... business, sports, hobbies... but his greatest passion is a passion for the Lord Jesus Christ... for loving Him...living for Him... and sharing Him with others.
- i. Do you know how rare it is today... to find such a godly man?... and yet God wants every man to be a godly man.
- j. To be the man of God that God wants you to be... does not happen automatically... it will not happen if you are a man who is content to live the lukewarm, satisfied, disinterested Christian life.
- k. To be the godly man God wants you to be... requires dedication, discipline and work.
- l. Here is how the Apostle Paul put it in 1 Timothy 4:7-8... *“Exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.”*
- m. The word translated “exercise” means to train or work out... it is the word from which we get our English word gymnasium.
- n. In ancient Greek culture... the gymnasium was a place where athletes exercised, worked out and trained themselves to prepare for athletic contests.
- o. If you are going to be the man of God that God has called you to be ... then you are going to have to work at it.
- p. Developing and growing as a godly man... requires spiritual sweat... it requires discipline, dedication and hard work.

- q. It is not natural to be a godly man... it is not easy to be a godly man ... being a godly man requires dedication, discipline and hard work.
- r. Being a godly man in an ungodly world...will cost you in many ways.
- s. Satan will target you... because he knows how powerful a true man of God is in this world.
- t. But the blessings from God for being a godly man in this world... and the reward you will receive in Heaven...will far outweigh the any price you pay for seeking to be the godly man God would have you to be.

IV. PUTTING AWAY WHAT HINDERS-

- a. First of all... the pursuit of godliness... requires putting away anything in our life... that hinders us from being the godly man that God wants us to be.
- b. In the ancient Greek world... athletes wore very little clothing when they trained and competed... they stripped anything that would hinder and encumber them from their goal of victory.
- c. To be the men of God that God would have us to be... requires us to strip away anything from our life...that might hinder us from the goal of being godly men.
- d. If we are going to be the men of God that God would have us to be ... then we must get rid of every encumbrance... every association... every habit... every relationship... every tendency... anything in our life... which impedes our pursuit of godliness.
- e. The writer of Hebrews puts it this way... *Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV)*
“Therefore... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...”

- f. What in your life is weighing you down?... what is hindering you? ... what sin is besetting you?... what is holding you back from being the man of God that God would have you to be?
- g. Whatever it is... to be the godly man that God would have you to be ... you need to have the discipline and the dedication to lay it down... to set it aside... to repent of it... to get it out of your life.
- h. In 1 Timothy 6:11... the Bible says that to be the man of God that God would have us to be... there are things in this world that we must flee from ... we must run from.
- i. The Bible says that we are to flee from immorality and any kind of sexual sin... we are to flee from idolatry... we are to flee from greed ... we are to flee from sins of the flesh... and sins of the spirit.

V. PRACTICAL GUIDE TO GROWING IN GODLINESS-

- a. Somewhere in the etymology of the word discipline... is the idea of making a list.
- b. One of the ways to discipline yourself to do certain things on a regular basis... is to make a list of those things... and to regularly do them.
- c. Developing godliness requires us not only to put away things that hinder us from that goal... it also requires us to pursue on a regular daily basis certain godly activities and attributes.
- d. One way to do this... is to make a list of these things...an actual list or a mental one... and seek to do them every day.
- e. To grow in godliness... here is a list things that you should seek to do on a regular basis... in fact...every day.
- f. #1, To be the man of God that God would have you to be... you must be a man of prayer... regularly praying for yourself... for your family ...for your church... for the work of God's Kingdom.

- g. How often should we pray?... the Bible says that we ought always to pray... that we should pray without ceasing... translation... we should pray every day.
- h. #2, To be the man of God that God would have you to be... you must plant the Word of God in your heart by reading it every day... you must be a student of God's Word.
- i. How important is the Word of God to the growing Christian life? ... it is invaluable.
- j. Did you know that Bible is so important to the Christian life... that as your Pastor... God has called and equipped me for the expressed purpose of helping you to understand the Word of God in a better way?
- k. #3, To be the man of God that God would have you to be... you must be a man of worship... daily worshipping, honoring and thanking God in a real way for His goodness and grace... and worshipping the Lord on the Lord's Day in the Lord's House.
- l. #4, To be the man of God that God would have you to be... you must be a Spirit-filled man... a man who regularly and daily yields control of their life to the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- m. #5, To be the man of God that God would have you to be... you must love His church... you must support His church... you must be active and involved in His church.
- n. Without the leadership of good and godly men... a church will never be the church that God would have it to be.
- o. These are daily disciplines... Satan will use your flesh and the world ...to fight to keep them out of your life.
- p. To be the godly men that God would have us to be... we must exercise ourselves unto godliness... and make these things a daily part of our life.

VI. CONCLUSION-

- a. Just because Christians are saved from the judgment of their sins ... does not mean that Christians will not face God's judgment one day.
- b. How you live for the Lord after you are saved is important... because the Bible says that one day... at the Judgment Seat of Christ... every believer in Christ will be judged for how we lived for the Lord after we were saved.
- c. *1 Corinthians 3:12-15 (NKJV) "Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."*
- d. The issue at the Judgment Seat of Christ will not be our salvation ... that issue was settled finally, fully and forever when we gave our life to Christ... the issue at the Judgment Seat of Christ will be our rewards that we will have in Heaven... or the loss of rewards.
- e. Heaven is not a reward... Heaven cannot be gained, earned, or deserved... Heaven is a gift given to those who trust in Christ as their Savior and Lord... but the Bible says that believers will receive rewards in Heaven based on how we lived for the Lord after we were saved.
- f. The Bible says that the salvation the Lord gives us is a foundation ... and we are responsible to the Lord for the kind of life that we build on that foundation.
- g. What kind of life do you want to turn in to the Lord at the Judgment Seat of Christ?... a committed Christian life... a faithful Christian life ... a beautiful life of gold, silver and precious stones... that will be a monument to Christ for all eternity?

- h. Or a satisfied, selfish, lazy, compromised Christian life...a spiritually unworthy and worthless life of wood, hay and stubble... that will not survive the fires of God's judgment?
- i. The church today needs godly men... will you be one of them?