

A GOOD MINISTER OF JESUS CHRIST – PART 1

1 Timothy 4:6-10

INTRODUCTION

- Many “Christian” leaders have, either actively or passively, led churches away from sound doctrine and practice.
- There is a need of godly leadership in churches today.
- 1 Timothy deals much with the leadership of God’s churches.
- Chapter 3 dealt with general qualifications of church leaders
- Chapter 4 gives specific instructions to Timothy as to how he can be a good minister of Jesus Christ
- After warning Timothy of the ascetic apostasy that threatened the church at Ephesus (4:1-5), Paul instructs Timothy in how to deal with it (4:6-16).
- 6-10 deals with the minister’s personal life
- 11-16 deals with the minister’s public life

What does it take to be a good minister?

I. HE ADVANCES IN THE WORD OF GOD (6)

- A. A good minister is primarily focused on preaching the word of God (Acts 6:4)
 1. This involves warning of false teaching/teachers

2. It involves teaching “words of faith and good doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 2:1)
 3. A good minister must be “mighty in the scriptures” (Acts 18:24; cf. Matthew 22:29)
 4. This requires serious, dedicated study (2 Timothy 2:15)
- B. The word of God is frequently likened to food for the souls (Job 23:12; Psalm 119:103; Jeremiah 15:16; Matthew 4:4; 1 Peter 2:2)
- C. Spiritual health is directly related to receiving of the word of God
- D. The assimilation of sound doctrine in the believer’s life is the key to godliness

II. HE AVOIDS ALL THAT IS FALSE (7)

- A. “Profane” is the opposite of holy; common (cf. Hebrews 12:16; Philippians 3:18-20)
- B. Old wives’ fables – things that are mythical, fictional
1. Jewish fables abounded (1 Timothy 1:4)
 2. Roman Catholicism is full of fables
 3. Evolutionary theory is a fable
 4. The Scripture is sufficient for our teaching (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 5. The good minister does not need to go to the world, philosophy or psychology (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

III. HE APPLIES HIMSELF TO GODLINESS (7-10)

Exercise – *gumnazo*, from which we get “gymnasium”

Godliness – *eusebeia*, which means “well-devout”, “reverent”

A. Godliness begins in the heart

1. Reverence of God
2. It is manifested in a practical holiness

B. Godliness must be constantly worked at

1. It is not an “event” but a continual process
2. Holiness requires effort (Hebrews 12:14)

C. It is profitable

1. Bodily exercise has limited profit
2. Godliness is profitable for this life (Psalm 1:1-3; 37:4, 25; Proverbs 10:22; Matthehw 6:33; Ephesians 6:1-3; Philippians 4:19; 1 Timothy 6:6; Hebrews 13:5)
3. Godliness is profitable for eternity (Matthew 6:20; 1 Timothy 6:19)

D. It is strenuous activity (10)

1. Labour
2. We are not to be passive in our Christian life
3. Spiritual exercise requires diligence. Eg, prayer, bible study, worship

E. It is an unpopular activity (10)

1. All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. (2 Timothy 3:12)
2. A godly life brings conviction to the ungodly.

F. Our trust is in “the living God...the Saviour of all men”

1. God provides good things for all men (Mat. 5:45; Jam. 1:17).
2. God helps all men (Ps. 107:28).
3. God loves all men and offers salvation to them (Jn. 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:4).
4. God is *specially* the Saviour of those that believe

CONCLUSION

1. It must be the priority of every Christian to devote their lives to the study of the Bible
2. Godliness is far more important than physical fitness
3. Effort is required in cultivating godliness
4. The world hates those who walk in godliness