
Sermon Notes

April 25, 2021

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Behind the Scenes

1 Timothy 4:11-16

The Man Behind the Curtain

- ❖ in 1 Timothy 4:11-16, Paul gives us a “behind the scenes” look at “the making of a pastor”
 - Paul previously looked at the character qualities necessary for those who serve the church in her teaching and preaching ministries
 - now, Paul looks at some of the tools and techniques that make a pastor’s ministry fruitful and focused
- ❖ The habits and practices that under gird pastoral ministry are things all Christ followers should strive after
- ❖ Paul’s words apply to all believers
 - providing an understanding of how you can and should pray for your pastors
 - giving a better framework for understanding why we do what we do in our shared worship

Godly Character

- ❖ The importance of maintaining and growing in godly character

- chronological age is not the real issue when it comes to preaching and teaching in the church
- the real issue is spiritual maturity
- ❖ A fivefold recipe for godliness
 - speech (*cf.* Pro 18:21, 10:19, 18:13, 15:28, 13:3)
 - consistent conduct (words and behavior go together)
 - a life of love (keeping both of God’s great commandments)
 - bold faith (complete confidence in the Master)
 - personal purity (particular emphasis on sexual purity)
- ❖ A pastor must set an example in every way

Grounded in God’s Word

- ❖ 4:13, *devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching*
 - R. Kent Hughes: “a landmark text in defining the major work of the pastor and the worship of the church.”
 - reading and explaining Scripture as a centerpiece for the worship of God’s people goes back all the way to the time of Nehemiah
 - from its earliest days, the church makes it her practice to enthrone the Word as the centerpiece of her worship
- ❖ Exhortation
 - encouraging and persuading God’s people with the content of God’s Word
 - helping people hear, understand and know how to respond to God’s Word

- ❖ Teaching
 - catechize God’s people in Christian doctrine so that they know the truth and can sort out fact from fiction
 - sound, Biblical exposition is essential to the health of the church
- ❖ “Timothy, teach the Scriptures, this is what you have been ordained to do.”

Practice, Practice, Practice

- ❖ 4:14, *practice these things... immerse yourself in them*
 - none of this comes naturally or easily
 - pastoral ministry requires a total life-commitment
- ❖ This kind of commitment encourages others when they see it put into practice
 - others should notice progress
 - it is important for everyone to step back and measure their progress
- ❖ 4:16, *Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching.*
 - much is at stake here... the difference between life and death
 - God may use you as a tool or a conduit through which He pours out His grace on another person
- ❖ Faithful ministers who keep a careful watch on their lives and their doctrine are used by God to bring people along in the salvation process
- ❖ Seek to be a blessing and a benefit to God’s people

Personal Application

1. In what ways does your study of these verses expand your understanding of what and how you are to pray for your pastors?
2. The qualities and characteristics Paul lists that go into “the making of a pastor” are things every Christian should aspire to. What fresh insight do these verses give you about new areas of personal growth for you to pursue?
3. In what ways does God use you to exhort and teach others?
4. Has this sermon given you any fresh ideas on things you might do to safeguard your life and doctrine? How will you go about putting that into practice?