

Instructions for a Faithful Pastoral Ministry 1 Timothy 4:11-16

Introduction

Historical background to Timothy's ministry assignment in Ephesus. Paul recruits Timothy to join him in mission around 51AD at Lystra.

62AD, Timothy was assigned to remain in Ephesus to correct false teaching and see to the order of the church. He was in his mid 30s.

1. The Proclamation of a faithful pastor, verse 11.

A. What *things* were to be commanded and taught--**proclaimed**?

The *things* discussed in vs. 6-10:

What were the things that Timothy needed to "point out" to the Ephesian church according to this verse 6? – The things covered in verses 1-5.

False teachers in Ephesus were promoting abstinence from foods and abstinence from marriage as an approach to godliness.

They needed to be reprov'd and corrected. Corrections: Mark 7:18-19; Genesis 1:26-28.

B. More teachings that must be **proclaimed** in Ephesus, verses 7 – 10:

Avoidance of irreverent and silly myths.

Train in godliness. Christian godliness is devotion to God and the coupled with the constant effort it takes to know God's word and follow it.

An athletic metaphor to characterize the effort of godliness (v. 7).

By the gospel Timothy must **proclaim**, his listeners would learn that there is only one living God and He is the God and father of the only Savior, Jesus Christ.

2. The Practice of a faithful pastor, verse 12.

A. Not allowing anyone to despise his youth.

To paraphrase: "Let there be no cause for the congregation to despise you because of your youth."

Francis Asbury

Set the example of godliness for your congregation (verse 12).

In wholesome speech (Ephesians 4:25, 29, 31; 5:4).

In upright conduct, genuine love, authentic faith, and pure living.

3. The Priority of a faithful pastor, verses 13-15.

A. Making sure the Scriptures are central in Church life.

Through:

1) Public reading of Scripture.

Public reading of Old Testament Scripture was a key practice in Jewish synagogues that was adopted by the early churches (Lk 4:16; Acts 13:15).

In churches it included the reading of portions of the growing New Testament composed of circulating apostolic writings (Col 4:16). A significant practice due to limited availability of written Scriptures.

2) Exhortation

Includes counsel, encouragement, and warning against error in doctrine and morals. Exhortation in the Synagogues, Acts 13:15.

3) Teaching

Explaining the context, the flow of thought, and the key ideas of a Scripture passage.

Showing doctrinal significance and how the text relates to the lives of the congregation.

B. Practice your gift; be committed to its development (verses 14, 15).

Timothy had the gift of teaching and a strong inclination to encouraging and exhorting. In other words, *preaching*.

Preaching is never identified by Paul as a specific gift. But teaching is usually labelled preaching when it contains exhortation.

Why might a pastor neglect development of his preaching?

It is hard work. Harder today than it was in Timothy's time.

There are always church attenders who criticize a pastors' preaching even when it is solid Biblical exposition.

And these criticisms are usually about method, not the teaching.

Summary exhortation, verse 16.

"Pay close attention to your life". This was the attention Timothy was to give to his personal conduct and character (verse 12).

"Pay close attention to your teaching" points to the priority of cultivating the craft of preaching (vss. 13-14).