

GOOD DOCTRINE (PT 2)

1 TIMOTHY 4

Text: 1 Timothy 4:6

1 Timothy 4:6

*⁶ If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of **good doctrine**, whereunto thou hast attained.*

Introduction:

As we began looking at this passage last week we remember that Paul had ask Timothy to remain in Ephesus to charge some that they teach no other doctrine.

1 Timothy 1:3

³ As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

In chapter 1 Paul speaks of Declared Doctrine and here in this chapter it deals with a Declared Danger.

Note also the connection in this passage to a good minister and good doctrine.

A good minister will nourish himself in the words of faith and good doctrine.

Last week we considered the first two thoughts from this passage:

- The Seducing Departure (vss.1-5)

1 Timothy 4:1-5

*¹ Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times **some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;** ² Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; ³ Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. ⁴ For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: ⁵ For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.*

This was a warning regarding the infiltration or error and false teaching.

Though this would occur in Timothy's day it is still going on today.

This apostasy spoke of in this chapter prepared the way for the perilous times of 2 Timothy 3:1-9.

2 Timothy 3:1-9

¹ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. ⁶ For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ⁷ Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. ⁹ But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.

Again we see this these things coming to pass today.

We then considered the Sound Doctrine (vss. 6-7)

1 Timothy 4:6-7

⁶ If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. ⁷ But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

Again noting the connection of a good minister and good doctrine.

This morning we continue looking at two other thoughts:

Note:

1. THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE (VSS. 8-10)

1 Timothy 4:8-10

⁸ For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. ⁹ This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. ¹⁰ For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

We now consider to the matter of Spiritual Discipline and we see here the question of godliness dealt with.

Notice:

A. A Truth Stated – Bodily Exercise Profiteth Little – (vs. 8a)

Paul didn't completely disregard exercise but it only profits "a little."

But that leads to us to consider:

B. A Truth Stressed – Godliness Is Profitable –
(vs. 8b)

The object of this training or exercise in godliness is threefold.

- It Gives Us a Knowledge of God
- It Provides a Likeness to God
- It Leads Us in Service For God

There are at least four kinds of exercise for increasing godliness:

- The Knee Drill – exercise in prayer

Understand as we have been considering on Sunday evenings:

- The Privilege of Prayer – (Jeremiah 33:3)

Jeremiah 33:3

³ Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Philippians 4:6

⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer

and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

- The Potential of Prayer – (1 John 5:14; John 14:13)

1 John 5:14

¹⁴ *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:*

John 14:13

¹³ *And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

- The Power of Prayer – (Luke 1:37)

Luke 1:37

³⁷ *For with God nothing shall be impossible.*

- The Purpose of Prayer – (1 Kings 18:37)

1 Kings 18:37

³⁷ *Hear me, O LORD, hear me, **that this people may know that thou art the LORD God**, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.*

- The Priority of Prayer – (1 Tim. 2:1, Luke 18:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:17)

1 Timothy 2:1

¹ I exhort therefore, that, **first of all**, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

Luke 18:1

¹ And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that **men ought always to pray, and not to faint;**

1 Thessalonians 5:17

¹⁷ Pray without ceasing.

- The Peril of Prayer
- Prevailing Prayer
- The Ear Drill – exercise in the Word of God
- The Foot Drill – exercise in our walk with God
- The Hand Drill – exercise in our work of God

This is what is most profitable.

Notice not only A Truth Stated and Stressed but also:

C. A Truth Sustained (vs. 9)

1 Timothy 4:9

⁹ This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

This statement, "a faithful saying" carries us back to the fact of the matter in the preceding verse, where we read that "godliness is profitable."

We have here in this verse the confirmation of the fact that godliness is gain.

This is a faithful saying; it is good as well as true.

Notice not only A Truth Stated, Stressed and Sustained but also:

D. A Truth Sought After (vs. 10)

1 Timothy 4:10

¹⁰ For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

We see here that:

- Godliness Must Be a Passion (vs. 10a) –
“We both labour and suffer”

There is a cost to be godly.

There is work involved.

There will be suffering.

They allowed nothing to stand in the way of their holy effort.

Godliness is not a cheap commodity.

It is high priced.

- Godliness is Divinely Supported – “We trust in the living God” (vs. 10b)

1 Timothy 4:10

¹⁰ For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

God is the source of our expectation.

God wants to see godliness in His people.

God stands by to help and support that person who desires godliness.

God will not fail the spiritually hungry soul. He is not dead; He is alive and keeps His word.

Also note:

- Godliness is Expected – “Command and teach” (vs. 11)

1 Timothy 4:11

¹¹ These things command and teach.

These things that are listed in verses 6-10 are to be taught to the people.

Review again these things:

1 Timothy 4:6-10

⁶ If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. ⁷ But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. ⁸ For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. ⁹ This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. ¹⁰ For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

This leads us to consider lastly:

2. A SOLEMN DUTY (VS. 12-16)

1 Timothy 4:12-16

¹² Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. ¹³ Till I come, give

attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

¹⁴ Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. ¹⁵ Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

¹⁶ Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

Paul close this chapter by stressing to Timothy the importance of being an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, and in purity.

Understand our walk must match our talk.

In these verses we see the personal preparation of the Man of God if his ministry is to be effective.

What a man is, is more important than anything he does.

What he is, gives value and virtue to all that he does.

If he is not genuine and sincere, what he does or says has little or no effect.

Someone has said people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

Remember:

A Christian worker will never be what God can make him to be until

- He is Obedient to the Word of God.
- He is Overwhelmed by the Grace of God.
- He is Overcome by the Spirit of God.
- He is Overflowing with the Love of God.
- He is Occupied in the Service of God

Because of the possible defect and defeat in the life of the Christian worker, God has given us some very clear teaching that must be submitted to.

God wants Timothy (and us) to be at his best for God publicly and privately.

Private preparation is most important. When a servant of God stands before the public to declare God's Word, he should prove himself in his private and public conduct.

Close:

Again Paul reminds Timothy in verse 16:

1 Timothy 4:16

¹⁶ Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

This is sounds words for us as well – take heed unto ourselves and unto the doctrine; continue in them.