

Edgemont Bible Church
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1 Timothy 4:6-11

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Intro:

XIV Qualities of an Excellent Minister

A. Servitude – vs 6b

1. Underlying theme of the entire Epistle - you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ,
2. Having discussed the inevitability of false teachers in 4:1-5, Paul now wants Timothy to know how to be minister of Jesus Christ
 - a. good – **kalos** - beautiful, good, valuable or virtuous, worthy.
 - b. minister
 - i. **diakonos** - an attendant, a waiter (at table or in other menial duties); specially, a Christian teacher and pastor (technically, a deacon or deaconess):--deacon, minister, servant.
 - ii. not used here of the in the technical sense, but in the general sense; applies to all
 - iii. contrasted with Doulos which has the idea of submission, where diakonos has the idea of serviceability or usefulness
 - c. of Jesus Christ – the one who will determine the worth or value of our ministry's usefulness

B. Warns of Error – vs 6a

1. Even in a positive ministry, there is a place for warnings, an essential element of ministry
 - a. If you instruct
 - i. **hupotithemi** - to remind, to suggest, lit. to lay before
 - ii. Doesn't have the idea of commanding or forcing obedience
 - iii. Refers to gentle humble persuasion
 - iv. Present tense indicates to continually warn
 - b. a recurring theme in Paul's ministry
 - i. Warned the elders of Ephesus – Acts 20:29-32
 - ii. He did not give details of the error, just tried building their faith in God's word
2. in these things
 - a. the things he warned about in 4:1-5
 - b. Timothy is to continually warn of the dangers of unbiblical, demonic doctrine spread by false teachers
3. the brethren
 - a. who he is to warn – brothers in Christ
 - b. the children of God are not to be tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine – Eph 4:14
 - c. the only way to deal with false Satanic teaching is to be strong in the word – 1 Jo 2:14
4. The responsibility of Spiritual leadership
 - a. John MacArthur pg 159-160, 1 Paragraph
 - b. God holds Spiritual leadership accountable – Eze 3:17-21
 - c. Paul believed this applied in his day
 - i. Acts 18:6b "Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean.
 - ii. Tells Timothy to be faithful to the ministry to which he was called – 2 Tim 4:1-5

C. Student of the Scripture – vs 6c

1. Nourished
 - a. **entrepho** - to educate:--nourish up in.
 - b. present tense participle – the continual experience of being nourished
2. in the words of faith
 - a. the body of truth contained in Scripture
 - b. b/c the word of God is inspired – 2 Tim 3:16-17 and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, being nourished in it works in ones life
 - i. to be an approved workman, not ashamed – 2 Ti 2:15
 - ii. to be blessed, bearing fruit, having green leaves, being prosperous – Ps 1:1-3
 - iii. to bear fruit – Jo 15:1-8
 - iv. to renew your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. - Ro 12:2
3. and of the good doctrine
 - a. teaching that is firmly rooted in and yielded from properly interpreting Scripture
 - b. exegetical study develops one's biblical or systematic theology, not visa versa
4. which you have carefully followed.
 - a. Timothy learned good doctrine from his mother and grandmother - 2Ti 3:15
 - b. Paul would have also taught him
 - i. 2Ti 1:13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me,
 - ii. 2Ti 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me

D. Avoids Influences of Unholy Teaching – vs 7a

1. But reject
 - a. **paraitomai** - to decline, shun:--avoid, refuse, reject, put away.
 - i. 2Ti 2:23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.
 - ii. Tit 3:10 Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition
 - b. the flip side of being strong in the word
2. profane
 - a. **bebelos** - accessible (as by crossing the door-way), (by implication, of Jewish notions) heathenish, wicked:--profane (person).
 - b. refers to anything that is contrary to the word of God
3. and old wives' fables,
 - a. 2Ti 4:4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.
 - b. in Paul's day, women did not have the educational opportunities that men had
 - c. so came the saying b/c no educated man would believe such a thing

E. Disciplines Himself for Godliness – vs 7b-9

1. and exercise yourself
 - a. **gumnazo** - to practice naked (in the games), train:--exercise.
 - i. Where we got the word gymnasium or gymnastics
 - ii. Speaks of rigorous, strenuous, self-sacrificing training
 - b. toward godliness.
 - i. **Eusebeia** - piety; the gospel scheme:--godliness, holiness.
 - ii. Used in Paul's day by Greek philosophers
 - Platonists – right conduct in regard to the gods
 - Stoics – knowledge of how God should be worshipped
 - Lucian said described one who loved the gods
 - Xenophon said described one who was wise concerning the gods
 - iii. It is
 - a right attitude and response toward the true creator God

- a preoccupation from the heart with holy and sacred realities
- a respect for what is due to God
- the highest of all virtues
- iv. Spiritual self discipline is the key to godly living – 1 Co 9:24-27
 - 2 Co 7:1 says let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
 - 2 Tim 2:3-5 endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.
- 2. For bodily exercise
 - a. profits a little
 - b. profits in this life
- 3. but godliness is profitable for all things,
 - a. having promise of the life
 - b. profitable for the soul as well as the body
 - c. profitable for the
 - i. present - that now is
 - ii. Future - and of that which is to come.
- 4. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.
 - a. Paul uses this in 1Ti 1:15
 - b. it is a self evident, obvious statement
 - c. so common that everyone knows that it is the truth
 - d. refers back to vs 8
- F. Committed to Hard Work – vs 10
 - 1. An Excellent ministry is not only a heavenly pursuit and therefore requires divine power, but is also an earthly task and therefore requires hard work
 - 2. For to this end
 - a. Connects vs 10 with vs 8
 - b. we both labor and strive,
 - i. the goal of laboring and suffering reproach is godliness
 - ii. **kopiao** - to feel fatigue; to work hard:--(bestow) labor, toil, be wearied. To work to the point of exhaustion
 - iii. **agonizomai** - to struggle, (to compete for a prize), (to contend with an adversary), (to endeavor to accomplish something):--fight, labor fervently, strive.
 - Where we get the word agonize
 - means to engage in the struggle
 - c. two reasons for the hard work are found in 2 Co 5:9-11; Col 1:28-29
 - i. believers will stand before the judgement seat of Christ – vs 10
 - ii. unbelievers will face God's eternal punishment – vs 11
 - 3. because we trust in
 - a. an excellent minister lives in hope
 - b. Trust
 - i. **elpizo** - to expect or confide: (have, thing) hope(-d) (for), trust.
 - ii. Perfect tense indicates something done in the past with continuing results in the present
 - c. As we are saved in hope – Ro 8:24 – so we live in hope
 - 4. the living God,
 - a. frequently used in the OT in contrast to dead idols
 - i. 1 Sam 17:26; 2 Kgs 19:4,16; Ps 42:2; 84:2
 - ii. an excellent minister do not serve dead idols for earthly rewards, but the living God for eternal heavenly rewards

b. who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

i. Various views

- some teach universalism – all men will be saved
 - violates scripture and scripture doesn't contradict itself
 - those that reject God will be sentenced to hell – Rev 20:14-15
 - those that reject God will suffer eternal punishment away from the presence of God - 2 Th 1:8-9
 - Jesus repeatedly spoke of the reality of Hell – Mt 8:12; 13:41-42,49-50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Lk 13:28
- some teach Christ potentially died for all, but his death is only effective for those who believe

ii. the key word is especially

- **malista** - most: chiefly, most of all, especially.
- mean to some extent all get experience the same kind of salvation
- the difference is degree not kind
- the words “salvation, saved, or Savior” are used in a variety of senses
 - “Saviour” is used in a lesser sense – to deliver – Jd 3:9; 6:14; 2 Sam 3:18; 2 Kgs 13:5; Neh 9:27; Obad 21
 - in the NT, it has the same sense – Lk 1:71; Acts 7:25; 27:34; Phil 1:19; Heb 11:7
 - “to save” is used in the Gospels referring to physical healing – Mt 9:21-22; Mk 5:23; Lk 8:36,50; Jo 11:12
 - God gives common grace to all men – Mt 5:45
 - He does not instantly judge them for sin - 2Pe 3:9
 - He provides many of their needs – Acts 17:25

G. Teaches with Authority – vs 11

1. command

a. **paraggello** - to transmit a message, (give in) charge, (give) command(-ment), declare.

b. this is a call to obedience by one in authority

2. and teach – didasko – to teach; it has the idea of passing on truth

3. These things

a. Paul's teachings in 4:6-10

b. everything that God commands – Mt 28:19-20

i. God now commands all men everywhere to repent, - Ac 17:30

ii. God commands all to hear and obey His son – Mt 17:5; Mr 9:7; Lu 9:35

4. On what basis is a minister's authority?

a. the authority of God's word

b. proper interpretation of God's word

c. a concern that the truth of God's word is upheld and if necessary enforced by Church Discipline

d. knowledge that we preach not to please men, but God