

1 Timothy

CHAPTER 4:12-16

Lesson 9

1 Timothy 4 closes with some exhortations as to what Timothy should *give attention to* and *give himself entirely to*. The result will be *progress (profiting KJV)* and assurance of salvation. Paul fervently addressed these matters. They were important to him. May we value them as he did.

Read 1 Timothy 4:12-16

1. Read through this week's verses using at least two Bible translations or paraphrases. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?

2. The contrasting word, *but*, is used in verse 12. Record what is being contrasted.

Read 1 Timothy 4:12

1. Paul began this section with the words, *Let no one despise your youth*. The word *despise* can be translated as *think lightly of* or *look down on*. Timothy was probably about 30 years old at the time of this writing. What are some opinions people might have about youthful pastors?

- a. What are some ways young pastors might behave in their efforts to prove themselves?
 - b. What were Paul's concerns as recorded in 1 Corinthians 16:10,11?
2. Reflect upon Paul's pronouncements about Timothy in 1 Corinthians 4:17 and Philippians 2:19,20. What did Paul say about Timothy?
 - a. Why are these attributes more important than a person's age?
3. Paul followed his statement in the first phrase of 1 Timothy 4:12 with a word of contrast. Rather than proving his calling as a pastor, Paul encouraged Timothy to *be an example*. List what Paul told Timothy to do. *Leave some space after each one to answer #4.
4. In your own words, define each of these *examples*.

5. This is a good reminder to all of us when we are tempted to prove ourselves. What can we learn from this?

6. Lest we think we are to take the leadership of the church lightly, what does Paul caution in:

1 Timothy 3:6

1 Timothy 5:22

Read 1 Timothy 4:13

1. A pastor has responsibilities and also expectations of the people he serves. Consider the phrase, *give attention to*. What is your understanding of its meaning?

2. *Reading*, as it is used here, does not refer to personal study. All three exhortations pertain to components of preaching. One component is *reading* the Word of God. Why is this crucial?

a. Often, members of the congregation zone out when Scripture is read. Since it is crucial that the pastor read the Bible, how important is it that we pay attention?

3. *Exhortation* is admonition or encouragement for the purpose of strengthening a person's faith. Share a time or two when you were *exhorted* through a message.

4. *Doctrine* is directed to teaching or instruction to impart knowledge. Why is it important to you that a pastor open up the truths of the Bible?

5. Given these three essentials of Bible teaching, in your own words, explain what a good sermon should include.

Read 1 Timothy 4:14

1. What did Paul tell Timothy *not to neglect*?
 - a. Define the word *neglect*.
 - b. In what ways can spiritual *gifts* be *neglected*?
2. The following verses list some of the spiritual *gifts*. Read each portion of Scripture and list the gifts mentioned.

Romans 12:6-8

- a. In addition to mentioning some of the gifts, what do these verses teach us about the gifts?

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

- a. In addition to mentioning some of the gifts, what do these verses teach us about the gifts?

Ephesians 4:11,12

- a. In addition to mentioning some of the gifts, what do these verses teach us about the gifts?

3. What is the exhortation of 1 Peter 4:9-11?
 4. As the gifts above are not all inclusive (there are many other ways that the Holy Spirit can supernaturally gift a believer), the way God gives them is not limited. According to 1 Timothy 4:14, how was Timothy's *gift given*?
 - a. What are some other ways that God imparts His *gifts*?

Read 1 Timothy 4:15,16

1. These two verses indicate how strongly Paul viewed his instructions to Timothy. Scan the verses and record the words and phrases that express Paul's fervency.
 2. What is the promised result of obedience to these things?
 - a. Note: it is not the doing of them that saves a person, it is adhering to these truths because of believing them. We hold the power of saving souls in sharing the gospel. How does this encourage you?

Review 1 Timothy 4:12-16

1. In what ways were you personally challenged by these verses?
 2. What did you learn about proving yourself to others?
 3. How have you been challenged to seek and use spiritual gifts?

*Who is wise and understanding among you?
Let him show by good conduct that his works
are done in the meekness of wisdom.*
- James 3:13