

Calvary Chapel of El Paso Morning Ladies' Bible Study – Timothy
November 8, 2022 – Lesson 9
1 Timothy 4:12-16 – That Your Progress May Be Evident

*Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God,
which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.
For God hath not given us the spirit of fear;
but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*
2 Timothy 1:6-7

Paul reminded Timothy a number of times to continue in that to which God had called him. The above scripture was written not long before Paul would be executed, and he was still reaching out to Timothy to carry on the work of the Lord. Although the letters of 1 and 2 Timothy were written to Timothy, they would also be read in his church in other churches. The exhortation and encouragement in our passage for today's study were written for Timothy and for all believers. We are to stay strong in our faith in the Lord and continue in His work. Let us hear what God has for each of us to learn from these verses.

As we study this today, we will first see how it applied directly to Timothy. Then we will glean from these truths what the Lord speaks to our hearts as well.

READ 1 Timothy 4:12-16

For Timothy:

Verse 12: For young Timothy – do not let anyone use your youth to put you aside. Though young, he was seasoned; we see this in The Book of Acts and also in references Paul made to him in other epistles. 1 Corinthians 4:17; Philippians 2:19,20.

Live a godly life – in public and in private. Be the same person at all times. The list in this verse involves what we do in public and what we do that others do not always see.

Word – what we say
Conversation – our lifestyle
Charity – God's love in action
Spirit – fervency, zeal
Faith – always trusting God
Purity – lead a godly life at all times

A quick way to hinder a ministry (or our witness) is to “let our hair down” and act in ungodly ways – when we think no one is looking. (God always sees.)

This calls for honesty before God and before others.

Verse 13: He was to continue in his functions as a pastor in teaching. This involves telling it, explaining it, and applying it to our lives.

A great example of this in the Old Testament was when the Israelites had returned after exile to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple. Having forgotten God's Word, they needed to hear it again. Nehemiah 8:8 *So they [Ezra and the other priests] read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.*

Note that the Word was read, explained, and given understanding. They actually had priests help the people to understand – they were teaching them the Word so that they could obey God.

So Timothy had a heavy responsibility with this. Perhaps when the people heard this, they were more receptive to Timothy's teaching and exhortation.

Verse 14: His gift as pastor was God given, through the elders. Paul was also used by God to impart a gift to Timothy. (2 Timothy 1:6)

Verse 15-16: Paul summed up:

Take this seriously, be consistent, and it will benefit everyone.

"Thyself" – verses 12, 15, and 16 – this was about Timothy and it was important.

Keep doing it – here is a great incentive to continue: You will save yourself and those that hear you. Salvation is past, present, and future. Here Paul was referring mainly to our present, continual salvation.

"Salvation is in three tenses: Past – every believer has been saved from the guilt and penalty of sin (Rom. 3:19); present – every believer is being saved daily from the power of sin in his life (Rom. 6:14); future – every believer will be saved from even the presence of sin in his nature, so that in heaven he will be without sin and become more like the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 13:11)." – *New Pilgrim Bible, page 1578*

For Us

Verse 12: Even if we are "young" in the faith or do not know as much as other believers, we are all called to encourage other believers by:

What we say

Our lifestyle

God's love in action in us – what we do for others

Our fervency for the Lord

Always trusting God

Living a godly life

We are to do this at all times, as noted above. Be the same person in public or in private as far as being faithful to the Lord and His ways and in godly behavior. Paul emphasized this in verse 15 – *wholly*, and in verse 16 – *continue*.

Verse 13: We are to encourage one another with the Word. Even just a note of encouragement, with a Bible verse written in it, can be just what is needed. (Or text message, if that is how you do it ☺ .)

Verse 14: Timothy's gift as a leader of the church, and as pastor of this church at Ephesus, was given to him by God in a very special way.

For us, as for the people at the Ephesian church, we recognize that our leaders have been given to us by God. Let us respect and honor them, and hear what they say. May God greatly bless our pastors and other leaders of our church!

Also, for us we can see that the gifts God has given to us as believers to serve Him are precious. Some of us never grow in them or even realize what they have been given. Let us all seek God to:

Know what our gifts of service are as we obey Him in growing and in letting Him lead us. (Not as someone else tells us.)

Continue to walk in it.

Humbly remember that He gave it to us to help others.

Let Him grow or change His gifts for us as He wills.

A gift given to all believers:

*17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature:
old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ,
and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;
19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself,
not imputing their trespasses unto them;
and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.
20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ,
as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead,
be ye reconciled to God.
21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin;
that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*
1 Corinthians 5:17-21

In conclusion:

Verse 15:

Meditate on these things – do not take them for granted.

If you do all of God's will for you at all times, you and everyone around you will benefit.

Verse 16: Pay attention and do it – then you and all those you minister to will be complete in the Lord.

So, how many ways could the Lord, through Paul, say the same things to us in these short verses? It seems that He wants us to hear what He is saying!

When we come back in January we will see Paul's specific instructions to Timothy about many matters concerning people within the church. As we will listen, there will be much to learn about how God desires His people to work together and love each other.

As we close today, let us remember that “In Christ we do not own life and property – they are trusts, and we are to manage them well.” The following verse speaks of us as *stewards*, which means we manage something for the owner – God. And what do we manage? The *manifold grace of God*. This is nothing less than all the beautiful things God pours out to us – spirit, soul and body. So we manage all this for ourselves and for those around us. Today’s passage emphasizes how we do this for other believers.

*As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another,
as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

1 Peter 4:10