

PREPARE FOR LEADERSHIP

God's Word:

1 Timothy 4:6-16

Key Verses:

"PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO YOURSELF AND TO YOUR TEACHING; PERSEVERE IN THESE THINGS, FOR AS YOU DO THIS YOU WILL INSURE SALVATION BOTH FOR YOURSELF AND FOR THOSE WHO HEAR YOU."

1 TIMOTHY 4:16

Breaking It Down:

Four themes found within the whole letter of 1 Timothy are mirrored in this passage and include sound doctrine, right living, evangelism, and a guide for church leaders.

As Christians, we are to train ourselves to be godly (verses 7b-8a). Paul references physical training as having some value, but godly training having value for all things. To train yourself to be godly, you need the same amount of discipline as if you were training for a race. This analogy is used throughout Paul's letters. (See 1 Cor. 9:24; Hebrews 12:1; Phil. 3:14.)

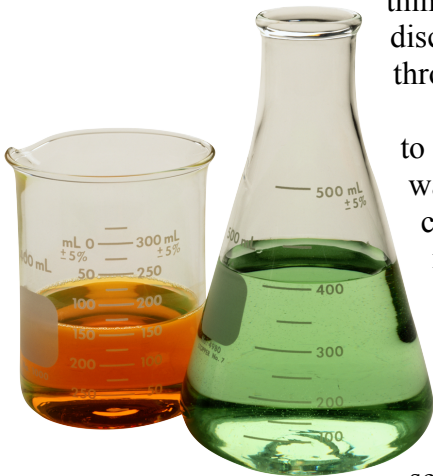
In verse 12, Paul is talking to Timothy. Paul had sent Timothy to serve as the church leader in Ephesus to combat false teaching. He was significantly younger than the elders of the church. Elders of the church in this culture were well-respected. Timothy couldn't openly rebuke them so Paul said to set the example in his actions. This verse can also be seen as a charge to the youth of the church.

Verse 12 is a verse heard frequently in our churches today. It says in the NIV: "Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young but set an example for the believers." But it doesn't end there. Paul then spelled out which areas in life Timothy should serve as an example: "in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity."

Those encompass all of life!

The word "example" in Greek is "typos," meaning pattern, or a type of model. Specifically, it means something worth repeating. Timothy was to conduct himself in a matter that is worth repeating.

Verse 14 addresses gifts given to believers by God. Paul stresses not to neglect



When the time comes to speak the Word, you won't be afraid because you have already been living out your faith. If you practice something long enough, it becomes second nature. It's a common belief that it takes about 30 days to form a habit. Think about what habits you are forming right now.

People are always watching, especially when we least expect it. The difficult times are when non-Christians, in particular, watch you to see if your walk matches your talk. You said that God is mighty to save, but if you don't act like that during the difficult times, your talk is cheap.

Understanding it

- 1) Who is the audience for 1 Timothy?
 - 2) In what areas does Paul challenge his audience to be a good example
 - 3) How does this passage apply today?
 - 4) Where do you find it the most difficult to live out your Christian walk?
 - 5) Where can you be an example to those around you?
-

Doing It!

It is time to step up to the plate. I challenge you to preach Christ with your actions this week. If you keep your eyes open, you will begin to notice situations that you are given where you can choose to walk your talk.

