

SUBJECT : Guidelines For Teaching

BIBLE BASIS:

Lesson Scripture:

1Timothy 4:1-16

BIBLE TRUTH:

To teach responsibilities of good leaders

MEMORY VERSE: READ

1Timothy 4:16

Lesson Aim

To help students appreciate the awesome responsibility that goes with leadership

Introduction

- Most ministers today are well trained to be professional clergymen. After earning a bachelors degree, the student is encouraged to attend a seminary and achieve a masters degree in theology. He studies Greek and Hebrew the language of the Old and New Testaments. He or she spends countless hours writing papers and studying for exams. He attends classes on Bible interpretation, church history, doctrine, and Christian education. He or she is lectured on the art of preaching and is carefully critiqued on his ability to prepare and deliver sermons. All of this training is good and important for church leaders to have, however, it is not what qualifies you as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Acts 4:13, John 15:16, 2Corn 5:17-19
- There is more to being a good minister than obtaining a good education. There is more to becoming a good minister than submitting to the ordination process and being formally installed as the pastor of a local church. This weeks lesson explores guide lines for ministry that go beyond professional training. It deals with the nature of the ministers work and encourages teaching by personal examples. 2Tim. 2:15
- God has called the believer to a life style of Holiness. 2 Corn. 7:1, Heb. 12:1-2, 14

The Devil Is Busy

- 1 Tim. 4:1-2 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;
- The Ephesians Church had been warned already about the coming of false doctrines. The phrase “latter times” means a little later on. Paul is saying false teachers were to arise within the church almost immediately and continue on through our day and on to the end of time. The point is: the churches have to be constantly on guard against false teaching. Acts 20:27-31, Eph. 6:12
- The Spirit is speaking in stated words, that the church will see a departure from the faith, a falling away from the truth. What caused it? seducing spirits or demonic influence over the basic doctrines.
- False teachers are under the subtle influence of Satan's demonic forces, who, like their master, are liars and murderers. John 8:44
- What marked these leaders was they preached one thing and practiced another, they were hypocrites. They were so far gone with their willful disobedience to Gods word, they had branded their own conscience with a hot iron. They read the word and then explained it away through their hypocritical lies. Jude 3-4, Matt. 5:19; 18:6; 23:13-16; Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Peter 2:20-22, Rom 1:18

Tradition Of Men

- [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.
- The problem was they taught asceticism which is the belief spirit was good and all matter was evil, which is a lie. Therefore, they taught physical deprivation abstaining from marriage and certain foods would produce spirituality. Gen 1:31, Gen 9:3, Col 1:20 (redeemed)
- This certainly sounds like the Roman Catholic Church, but do not limit it to Rome alone. Beware of any groups that enforces holy days, special diets, and that teach that single life is more spiritual than married life. Col. 2:13-16
- On the issue of food, the answer is to receive it with thanksgiving by the word of God in prayer. Mark 7:14-23, 1Corn 10:31.
- On the issue of marriage, the Bible is clear, marriage was instituted by God and honorable in all. Gen. 2:23-24, Heb. 13:4
- It becomes apparent many church organizations have been seduced and have fallen away from the word of God and have laid hold of the traditions of men. Col. 2:8, Matt. 15:1-8

A Good Minister

- [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.
- The good minister has the responsibility of passing on what he has received. A good minister will cause us to remember what the spirit has already said. A good minister will feed on the word of God that he might be able to feed others. 2Tim. 2:2
- Just as healthy doctrine will promote spiritual health and well being, so the foolish and silly myths of false teachers will produce spiritual sickness. Spiritual food and spiritual exercise are a happy combination. 3John 2
- Verse 7 is suggested that Timothy was leaning toward asceticism, the disciplining of the body; Paul is teaching him to focus on spiritual disciplines and exercises more than physical exercise. 1Tim. 5:23
- Paul admits there is some profit in physical exercises, but very little. It would be far better to use that time you spend going to the gym to study to **show** yourself approve unto God. 2Tim 2:15

Command And Teach

- [9] This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation. [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. [11] These things command and teach. [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.
- The faith saying is referring back to verse eight, bodily exercise profit but little. Do you think everyone believes that?
- Regardless of who believes the word or doesn't, the minister must be the example in word and deeds. If obedience to this word causes you to suffer, then so be it. It is our responsibility and obligation to stand up for the truth of the gospel. Rom.3:3-4
- Paul instructs Timothy to command and teach the word of God regardless of how the people respond. 2Tim 4:1-5
- Timothy was younger than most of the member of the church in Ephesians. So Paul is instructing Timothy to use his youthfulness as a positive and not a negative and be an example of the believer in word, conduct, love, in attitude, in faith, in conscience. 1Tim. 5:1
- Why is example leadership so important in the church today? Titus 1:6-9

Progressing In The Word

- [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.
- Reading the word in public, explanation the word, and applying the word is an important function of church leader. Just knowing the facts of the word is not enough. The believer must know the truth, the doctrines, of the Word, if he is to grow in grace. The principle teachings of the Bible must never be set aside.
- Every believer has some spiritual gift and far too often these gifts are neglected instead of exercised by faith. Rom 12:3-8, 1 Cor 12
- When the elders ordained Timothy, God gave Timothy some spiritual gifts to equip him for his ministry. But he had been neglecting these gifts, and need to stir them up like a dying fire. What you don't use you lose. 2 Tim 1:6 Heb 2:1-3
- We must be focused on what is important if we are to grow in grace. Meditation is a part of that function. Giving thyself wholly to them is a life style. 2 Peter 3:17-18, 1 Peter 2:1-2

How to Avoid Unnecessary Problems

- [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.
- First of all examine yourself, find out where you are and where you are going. The unexamined life is a life not worth living.
- Many believers are correct on doctrine, but incorrect in living them out. We will never reach or save others if we have lost our own spiritual power. If the salt have lost its savor where with shall it be salted it is henceforth good for nothing but to be trodden under the foot of men.
- As we read this chapter it is clear that Paul expected Timothy to build this church on the word of God. To teach it, preach it, practice it. The Bible was to be Timothy's personal source of food and spiritual guide as well as for the church.
- We are not talking about salvation in this verse we are discussing life styles of spiritual disciplines. The practice of these things mentioned will save us and the church from a lot of unnecessary trouble suffering, pain, ineffectiveness.
- In conclusion, What can the church membership do to help the pastor give the time and energy to focus on the things of God and grow; protect his time, pray for him daily, pay attention when he preaches, then do what he says, give the tithes and offerings. James 1:25