

Title: Save Yourself and Those Who Hear You

Passage: 1 Timothy 4:12-16

— — —
Draft Summary:

I. Demand respect by how you live. (v.12)

“...show yourself as a model to those who believe in word, conduct, love, faith and purity.”

II. Devote yourselves to God’s Word (v.13-14)

“...give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching.”

III. Don’t give up - this is a matter of live and death (v.15-16)

“...persevere in these things, for as you do this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

Possible Discussion Questions:

- Do people see your life and see a faithful life of God? How so or what areas may share should grow or address?
- How can you be more of a person of one single motive: to please God and to advance His glory in every possible way?
- What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?

— — —
Passage:

1 Timothy 4:12-16 (LSB)

“Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but show yourself as a model to those who believe in word, conduct, love, faith and purity. Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. Do not neglect the gift within you, which was given to you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

EXPOSITION

Overview

I. Demand respect by how you live. (v.12)

II. Devote yourselves to God’s Word (v.13-14)

III. Don’t give up - this is a matter of live and death (v.15-16)

I. Demand respect by how you live. (v.12)

1 Timothy 4:12

“Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but show yourself as a model to those who believe in word, conduct, love, faith and purity.”

Let no one look down on your youthfulness,

- You may be young, but no one despise or look down on you because of it.
- How?

but show yourself as a model

- Be the original, be genuine in your walk with Christ
- Be the Christian that others see and want to emulate.

to those who believe

- Set an example to all Christians - young and old.

in word, conduct, love, faith and purity.

- the complete life to be an example

in word

- the mouth reflects the heart.

Matthew 15:10-11

And he called the people to him and said to them, "Hear and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person."

James 3:4-5

Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

conduct,

- your tongue controls your conduct. Your heart to be driven by love.

Romans 12:10

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

love,

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

- See the example of Christ. Jesus is all these things. (Jesus is patient and kind, Jesus does not rejoice at your wrongdoing. His love never ends)

faith

- Where is your allegiance and dedication?
- Do people see your life and see a faithful life of God?

Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

purity

- sexual purity

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor,

- are you a person of one motive/desire:
 - To please God and to advance His glory in every possible way.
- Are you willing to make any sacrifice and sustain any suffering if only you can please God and honor Christ?
- How? Devote yourselves to God's Word.

II. Devote yourselves to God's Word (v.13-14)

1 Timothy 4:13-14

"Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. Do not neglect the gift within you, which was given to you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the council of elders."

Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching.

- Be focused on God's Word. Not be distracted by other things.
- Allow God's Word to do what it is doing - let it convict or comfort or encourage

Nehemiah 8:1-2 (Israel focused on God's Word)

And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month.

- likewise, we must know God's Word and pay attention.
- Hard teaching produces soft hearts. Soft teaching produces hard hearts. We must focus on God's Word and allow the Spirit to do the resulting work.

Do not neglect the gift within you, which was given to you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the council of elders.

- word of encouragement to Timothy (young pastor) as he served the church.
 - Likewise, in Christ, God has summoned you by name and has tasked you for work in His church.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

III. Don't give up - this is a matter of live and death (v.15-16)

1 Timothy 4:16

"Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will save both yourself and those who hear you."

- Four commands

Take pains with these things;

- be focused and disciplined on what God has called you to do.

2 Timothy 2:3-7

Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all.

- have a diligent focus such as one in a mine searching for something precious.

Job 28:1-3

“Surely there is a mine for silver, and a place for gold that they refine. Iron is taken out of the earth, and copper is smelted from the ore. Man puts an end to darkness and searches out to the farthest limit the ore in gloom and deep darkness.

Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching;

- fix your focus on what is important and take care
- What? Your life and your teaching

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

persevere in these things,

- not a temporary or fleeting effort.
- But persevere to the end.

1 Corinthians 16:13

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

James 1:2-4

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

for as you do this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

- the goal and purpose of our lives is to work unto God so that sinners are saved.

Matthew 25:23

His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.