

Title: Pursuing Godliness

Passage: 1 Timothy 4:6-11

Draft Summary:

Key Truths

- Characteristics of a good servant in Christ:
- I. Focused on Gospel-centered teaching
- II. Confirmed through Godly training and living
- III. A Global mindset through ministry

Application:

- Come to Christ
- Don't be slothful - be diligent in pursuit of godliness.
- Be motivated for love of Christ rather than legalism.
- Persevere

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What has been helpful to you in conforming your mind to be like Jesus?
 - What area of spiritual discipline could you focus on - and why?
 - What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?
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Introduction

Personal story and someone's observation of a pastor:

- He's a simple man like all of us, but a godly man that all of us want to be.

Passage:

1 Timothy 4:6-11

If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things.

EXPOSITION

Context of Passage:

Letter to Timothy

- one of key themes is to pursue godliness
- Previously: admonishing not to run after false theologies.

Overview

Characteristics of a good servant in Christ:

- I. Focused on Gospel-centered teaching
- II. Confirmed through Godly training and living
- III. A Global mindset through ministry

I. Gospel-centered good teaching

1 Timothy 4:6

If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.

If you put

- Put = gentle, humble persuasion.
- layout God's truth before others.

these things

- things that point to Christ

being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine

- being trained = continuous
- Training = requires study and work in the Word of God.
 - Cannot rest on past experiences
 - always be a learner

that you have followed.

- what was followed all through their lives from their upbringing and youth

2 Timothy 1:5

I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

- Faithfulness in teaching children will bear fruit
 - We don't always see it day to day but it is worth it.

you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus

- Good = be faithful in teaching God's Word and pursue godliness

II. Godly training and living

1 Timothy 4:7-9

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance.

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths.

- Not speculate on matters that are not in Scripture.

Rather train yourself for godliness;

- instead live the right way under God's Word.
- Godliness = closeness to God and conformity to His character
- Godliness must be cultivated and what we must be disciplined for

for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way,

- training = exercise in training like an athlete

Hebrews 12:1

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

- we must get rid of any weight or habit that impedes godliness.
- Without the conscious shedding of things holding you back, you will not grow in godliness
 - Bad habits
 - Fears
 - Lusts

as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

- spiritual disciplines have eternal value.

1 Corinthians 9:24-26

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.

Question: Does pursuing godliness add to our salvation?

- Answer: No, we are only saved through Christ on the cross on our behalf.
- Even though godliness is not a condition of salvation, it is part of salvation
 - When saved, you are given the Holy Spirit of God.

For to this end we toil and strive,

1 Corinthians 1:2

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

- In Christ, you are justified before God as saved. But we are called to be more sanctified, which means we are to be more like Jesus.
- If you don't have a desire to pursue Christ, then examine yourself of whether truly know Him.
 - We are saved by faith alone but saving faith is never alone.
- Following Christ takes "holy sweat" and discipline
 - It must require intentionality and focus.
 - Anything you do in life: The more effort you put into something, the more you are good at it.
 - Likewise, the more we study God's Word, the more we are more like Jesus.
- Spiritual disciplines
 - God's Word - reading, meditating, memorizing
 - Fasting
 - Public worship
 - Evangelism
 - Serving
 - Stewardship

III. A Global mindset through ministry

1 Timothy 4:10-11

because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things.

- Our focus and mindset must be on God

who is the Savior of all people,

- regardless of background, God saves.

Application

Come to Christ.

- Repent of your sins, and turn to Christ and be saved from the wrath of God that is to come to anyone who hasn't repented of their sins.

Acts 2:38

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Don't be slothful - be diligent in pursuit of godliness.

- Put down the remote, device, or joystick.
- Be focused on God's Word and things of God.

Romans 12:11

Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Be motivated for love of Christ rather than legalism.

- Do things because you love God and want to please Him.
 - Not to get anything from Him but rather because of love for Him.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Persevere

- any training will be characterized by failure.
- We will fail more times than we succeed.

Proverbs 24:16

for the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.

- Follow-through is required for any lasting change.
- spiritual disciplines frees us from the gravity of this present age and instead allows us to soar with the saints and angels.