

A Successful Proclamation of God's Truth

February 4th & 5th, 2017

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."

A commitment to teach the Word of God

1 Timothy 4:6 "If you put these things before the brothers..."

❖ In the context of 1 Timothy 4:6, Paul writes to Timothy...

1. ... In order that Timothy may know how he ought to conduct himself in the household of God "... which is the Church of the living God, a pillar and a buttress [structure] of the truth." *1 Timothy 3:15*
2. ... To constantly focus on the mystery of Godliness which is the manifestation of God to humanity through the person of Jesus Christ for salvation and the proclamation of this truth to the nations. *1 Timothy 3:16*
3. ... To expose the apostasy that constantly takes place within the church when many depart from the faith and embrace the worldly values of the culture. *1 Timothy 4:1-2*

 Ä Some depart from the truth and turn to legalism!

1 Timothy 4:3 "who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believed and know the truth."

 Ä Others, in the name of tolerance, depart from the truth and turn to liberalism!

Jude 4 "For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."

❖ We are called to proclaim the Word of God and this is a great responsibility!

 Ä The church faces a great challenge today as we deal with many issues, controversies, and decisions.

 Ä Many churches have surrendered to the demands of our culture, as they yield to the pressure to be more accepting of ideas that compromise biblical truth and bless ideas that the Bible condemns.

❖ The call to the Church, as ministers of the gospel, is to engage people with a message that will reach them with the truth in the midst of their spiritual condition, circumstances and values.

1 Timothy 4:9-11 "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."

 Ä Paul challenged Timothy to commit to the truth and to seek the same kind of commitment from those who believed!

 Ä When we as the church commit to the truth of God, we disengage from and oppose the views that permeate the culture.

2 Timothy 2:15 "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."

- ❖ As the culture challenges the church, the best place for us to find unity is in the Word of God.
 - Ephesians 4:1-7
 - Ä God has already decided the message – we are the messengers.
 - Ä Often we tend to depart from God’s truth, in a subtle way, moved by the influences around us that seem to work and make sense, but in the long term we are drifting from the solid foundation of His Word.

A commitment to practice godliness

1 Timothy 4:6b-7 “...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 with godliness;”

- ❖ The Bible is calling us to have a reverent devotion for God and His commandments.
 - 2 Timothy 4:1-4
 - Titus 3:9-10
- ❖ The consistent practice of what we believe corroborates who we are as Christians and determines where we are heading as a church.

A commitment to model truth

1 Timothy 4:12 “Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”

1 Timothy 4:15 “Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.”

A commitment to deliver the message of salvation

1 Timothy 4:16 “Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

- ❖ As we follow God’s command in regard to His truth, committed and devoted to His teaching, we will be able to proclaim the gospel in a successful way
 - Ezekiel 2:1-7; 3:17-21

Endnotes:

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