

1 Timothy 4:1-16 Watching your Life and Doctrine

What are some of the myths out there about what is a good minister?

Read 1 Timothy 4:1-16.

1. What is Timothy told to keep before his brothers and why (v. 6)?
2. What are the characteristics of false teachers?
3. What is the problem with false teaching and why will it be hard to spot?
4. What is it about the “godless, silly myths” (v. 7) that makes them godless? (Also See 1:4, 6-7.)
5. Compare verse 7 with 1 Timothy 3:16. What exactly is it that Timothy should train himself in?
6. How is this ‘training in godliness’ similar to physical training? In what ways is it more valuable?
7. Why is our toiling and striving not in vain (vv. 9-10)?
8. How does the life of the good Christian servant, described in verses 12 and 16, differ from that of the false teachers in verses 1 and 2?
9. Does setting a good example mean that our leaders must be perfect?
10. What is the value of persevering in life and doctrine

Implications

- What current “godless, silly myths” are tearing people away from the truth of the gospel? How might you be able to help in these situations to restore the right spiritual priorities?
- In what ways are you tempted to give higher priority to aspects of life other than true godliness of life and doctrine?
- How do verses 8-10 help us to refocus on proper Christian priorities?
- Think of some practical ways these priorities might be worked out:
 - o in raising children
 - o at work (and in decisions about work)
 - o commitment to church Bible prayer
- What does verse 13 say the heart of Christian ministry should be? What implications does that have for the ministry you are involved in?

Give thanks and pray

- Thank God that we have such easy access to “His word. Ask God to bless you with self-discipline in reading his word to train yourself for godliness.
- Pray that the teachers in your church will set a godly example in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, and that they will always prioritize the public reading and teaching of Scripture.
- Ask God to help you submit to godly teachers of God’s word who are younger than you, as you get older!