

I Timothy 4:6-16

Commentary: Be A Living Example 4:6-16

The first 5 verses of chapter 4 deal with the threat of apostasy in the local church, the remaining verses highlight Timothy's pastoral responsibility to address apostasy, as Paul gives instruction to overcome its influence. Paul's emphasis to Timothy was to be a living example to other believers, both in his personal life and public ministry.

Comprehension Questions:

Carefully read through I Timothy 4:6-16 and then attempt to answer the questions which follow.

Paul desires for Timothy to "be a good minister of Jesus Christ".

1) What does Paul say is necessary to effectively teach others (v6)?

The verb "nourished" is in the Greek present tense (v6), indicating that it is not by one large banquet, nor by an occasional feast, but by a regular diet of good solid food that one must partake.

2) Consider the above statement, what should Timothy's (**yourself included**) relationship to the Word of God be?

3) How does Paul describe the false teaching in the Ephesian church (v7)?

Physical displays of strength and ability were central in Hellenistic (Greek) culture like in Ephesus.

4) What does Paul say is more profitable than physical training (v7-8)?

5) What can result in trusting in the living God and pursuing godliness (v10)?

6) Explain how the living God can be the Saviour of all men (v10) yet **only** those who believe in Him are saved? Hint: John 3:16-18.

The Greek word translated “youth” in English (v12) describes people up to 40 years of age. Given Jewish men had authority to be teachers (Rabbis) from the age of 30, it is highly probable that the complaints that arose in the church regarding Timothy’s youthfulness were because he was younger than 30.

7) In what ways did Paul instruct Timothy to be an example to the believers in Ephesus as a way of overcoming the “liability” of his age (v12)?

In Paul’s day most people (especially Gentiles) were illiterate.

8) Why was public reading of Scripture (v13) important?

9) How did the Elders affirm their support for Timothy as pastor when he came to Ephesus (v14)?

10) Why was it important for Timothy to exercise his spiritual gifts and look after his own spiritual health (v14- v16)?