

1Tim 4:06-16 – A GOOD MINISTER OF CHRIST

I. Laying these Things before the Brothers (v. 6)

- A. A minister of Christ does not mainly denote a minister who belongs to Christ
 - 1. But, a person who ministers and serves Christ to others
- B. “These things” refer to all that he has covered thus far in the epistle
- C. “Being Nourished” vs. *being taught*
 - 1. Nourishing is for growth in life; teaching is only a matter of knowledge
 - 2. Being nourished with Christ, we shall have Christ as food, as life supply to minister to others
 - 3. To minister Christ to others, we ourselves must first be nourished
 - 4. After being nourished, Timothy will be able to lay “these things” before the brothers

II. Words of the Faith and of the Good Teaching (v. 6)

- A. “Words of faith” are the words of the full gospel concerning God’s New Testament Economy
- B. “Words of good teaching” are the riches of Christ to nourish, edify and strengthen His believers
 - 1. Words of faith and good teaching refer to the same thing

III. Refusing Profane and Old-Womanish Tales (v.7)

- A. Greek word for profane means touching and being touched by worldliness
 - 1. Contrary to being holy
- B. To exercise unto godliness, must refuse profane and old-womanish tales

IV. Exercising unto Godliness (vv.7-8)

- A. “Unto godliness” means with a view to godliness
 - 1. Godliness is Christ lived out of us as the manifestation of God
 - 2. To exercise ourselves unto godliness is to exercise our spirit to live Christ in our daily life
 - a. Christ today is the Spirit dwelling in our spirit (2 Cor. 3:17; Rom 8:9-10; 2 Tim. 4:22)
- B. “A little” denotes a few things to a small extent of our being(v.8)
 - 1. This is in contrast with “all things”
 - a. “All things” refer to all parts – physical, psychological, and spiritual; both temporal and eternal
- C. The “promise of the present life” is like in Matt 6:33; John 16:33; Phil 4:6-7; 1 Pet 5:8-10
- D. The “promise of that which is to come” is like that in 2 Pet 1:20-11; 2 Tim 2:12; Rev 2:7, 17; 21:6-7
- E. A promise of both present life and of the coming life is like that in Mark 10:29-30

V. A Pattern to the Believers (vv. 10-13)

- A. Although Timothy was young, he was charged by the apostle to bear responsibility of caring for the building up of a local church (v. 12)
 - 1. Charged not to be childish, but be a pattern to the believers (v. 12)
 - 2. He was to be an example in word, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity
- B. “Until I come, attend to reading, to exhortation, to reading” (v. 12)
 - 1. This kind of public reading may be for exhortation and teaching

VI. Not Neglecting the Gift (v. 14)

- A. Gift as not referring to the gift which was upon Timothy, but of the gift which was in him (v. 14)
 - 1. Gift was probably a teaching gift (1 Tim 1:3; 4:6; 5:7; 6:2, 12, 20; 2 Tim 1:13-14; 2:2)
 - 2. The “gift which is in you” indicates that gift is not an outward endowment
 - a. But the inward ability of life to minister to others
 - 3. Gift was given by means of prophecy with laying on of the hands of the elders (1 Tim 4:14; 2 Tim 1:6)
 - a. Laying on of hands has 2 functions (Acts 13:3):
 - i. For identification (Lev 1:4)
 - ii. For impartation (1 Tim 4:14)
- B. Literally the Greek word for elders should be rendered presbytery
 - 1. Presbytery means the body of elders, the eldership
 - 2. Elders, who are the overseers (3:2), represent a local church, which is the expression of the Body of Christ
 - 3. The laying on of the hands of the elders signifies that the Body of Christ participated with God in imparting the gift of grace to Timothy