

HOW TO SAVE ONE'S MINISTRY

I Timothy 4:12-16

Intro:

- A. Timothy was a man of the book.
 - 1. He had known the Scriptures from a youth.
 - 2. He had nourished himself in the word and in the true doctrines. Vs 6b

- B. As an example to the Elders of the church at Ephesus, he was to seek to behave himself.
 - 1. There were certain things he should do.
 - 2. There were things he should not do.
 - 3. In following Paul's instruction he would be able to "save" himself. Vs 16b

I. Overcoming The Problem Of Youth. Vs 12

- A. "Let no man despise thy youth:..."
 - 1. "Despise" = καταφρονεω = "to think down".
 - 2. "Youth" = νεοτης = "newness", "recent", "youth".
 - 3. "Let no one look down on your youthfulness". - NEB

- B. "...but be thou an example of the believers..."
 - 1. "Example" = τυπος = "type".
 - 2. "Make yourself a model to the others...".

- C. "...in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."
 - 1. "Word" = λογος = "speech".
 - 2. "Conversation" = αναστροφη = "mode of life".
 - 3. "Charity" = αγαπη = "love like Gods".
 - 4. "Faith" = πιστις = "firm persuasion".
 - 5. "Purity" = αγνεια = "chaste", "innocence, and integrity, all stemming from a pure heart".

II. Overcoming The Problem Of Laxness.

- A. Vs 13 "Till I come, give attendance to reading,..."
1. "Until I arrive..."
 2. "Attendance" = προσεχω = "to hold to", "to turn one's mind", "to attach one's self".
 3. "Reading" = αναγνωσις = "knowing by reading".
- B. "...to exhortation, "to doctrine."
1. "Exhortation" = παρακλητος = "a calling near", "to call one's side to give encouragement".
 2. "Doctrine" = διδασκαλια = "the substance or the result of teaching".

III. Overcoming The Problem Of Neglect.

- A. Vs 14 "Neglect not the gift that is in thee..."
1. "Neglect" = αμελεω = "not to care for".
 2. "Gift" = χαρισμα = "a special endowment of the Spirit".
- B. "...which was given thee by prophecy, by the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."
1. "Conferred on you by prophetic indication". - WEY
 2. "When the hands of the elders were placed on you". WEY
 3. When Timothy was ordained he was given a spiritual gift. We do not know which one. We do know he could become careless about it and it's purpose.

IV. Overcoming Lack Of Growth.

- A. Vs 15 "Meditate upon these things;..."
1. "Meditate" = μελετω = "to take care for anything, so as to be able to do it", "to cultivate"
 2. "Keep on cultivating these things"
- B. "...give thyself wholly to them;..."
1. ειμι = "be in them".
 2. "Be totally absorbed in these things".

- C. "...that thy profiting may appear to all."
1. "Profiting" = προκοπη = "advance", "progress".
2. "Appear" = φανερος = "obvious", "clear".

V. Overcoming The Desire To Quit. Vs 16

- A. "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them..."
1. "Pay close attention to yourself..." - NASB
2. "Doctrine" = διδασκαλια = "what has been taught".
3. "Continuous" = επιμενω = "to remain upon".
4. "Stick to your work" - MOF
- B. "...for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."
1. "For in so doing..."
2. "Save" = σωζω = "to rescue".
3. "Hear" = ακουω = "to learn by hearing".
4. "You will deliver yourself and all those who hear your message will be saved."

