

## How to be a Good Servant of Jesus Christ 1 Timothy 4:6-11

**Introduction:** In 1 Timothy 4, Paul gives personal instructions to Timothy challenging him to be “a good servant of Jesus Christ.”

- 4:1-5 – He is to be **discerning**
- 4:6-12 – He is to be **disciplined**

Note three areas in which discipline is critical:

### I. **Be disciplined as a servant of Christ 4:6a**

We serve Christ by becoming His voice, hands and feet in serving the church. The greatest way for a pastor to serve the church is by **grounding** them in the Word of God (Eph 4:14-15; 1 Jo 2:14).

### II. **Be disciplined as a student of the Word 4:6-7a; 1 Peter 2:2**

He must FIRST feed on the Word **himself** and then feed the **flock**. Note two ways in which he is challenged to be disciplined as a student of the Word:

#### 1. **Feed your soul on sound doctrine 4:6b**

He must be a good **theologian** (2 Tim 2:15; 4:2-3).

#### 2. **Forsake junk food 4:7a**

Intellectual arguments don't convince people to become Christians. The Holy Spirit uses the **simple** truths of God's Word to bring conviction and faith in Christ.

Keep the main thing the main thing! And the main thing is **Christ!** (1 Cor 1:23; 2:4-5; Eph 3:8).

### III. **Be disciplined as a saint in this world 4:7b-12**

There are two areas of ministry that Paul focuses on – two keys for every Christian to be pursuing:

#### 1. **He is to pursue the sanctification of his personal life 4:7b-9**

Godliness is a part of our calling as “saints” of God (1 Cor 1:2).

- HAGIOS (“saints”) in the NT refers to God's people who have been called out from this world and **devoted** to Him.
- “Godliness (EUSEBEIA) is living one's life with the perspective of reverence to God and the perspective of **accountability** to Him.

#### 1) **The essential for godliness 4:7b**

**Discipline** is essential for godliness.

- There are things that you must say, “**NO**” to that defile your soul, cause you to be a stumbling block, hinder your testimony, or divert your time and attention away from spiritual development.
- There are **habits** to develop – personal devotional time, church attendance, time given to serve the Body, etc.

#### 2) **The effects of godliness 4:8; Heb 11:5; Mat 5:10-12**

Godliness is **profitable** both for the present life and for eternity.

#### 2. **He is to pursue the salvation of lost people 4:10-11**

These verses reveal the importance that godliness plays in the salvation of others.

### 1) **Paul's depiction of ministry 4:10**

- ☐ Ministry is **hard work** 4:10a
- ☐ Ministry is **fruitful** 4:10b; 2:4; 1 Jo 4:14

Note that salvation has two aspects:

- **Temporal** salvation (“who is the Savior of all people”) – God is the Savior of all men in the sense that He does not execute **judgment** the moment a person sins (Ez 18:20; Rom 6:23). Unbelieving sinners live under a suspended sentence while God in mercy holds back His **wrath**. And He shows them His **goodness** every day (Mt 5:45; Acts 17:25).
- **Eternal** salvation (“especially of those who believe”) – Those who put their faith in Christ not only experience temporal blessings but **eternal** blessings.

### 2) **Paul's directive to Timothy 4:11; Titus 2:15**

Paul challenges Timothy to teach with **authority**! This truth was handed down by God to be **obeyed**!

Everything we do in ministry is for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

- ☐ We guard the truth because without it people cannot be **saved** (Romans 10:15).
- ☐ We live godly lives so that Christ can be seen in us and the gospel can be **appealing**.
- ☐ We speak the truth boldly so that God's Word can be seen for what it is – eternal truth that **transforms** (Col 1:28-29).

### **Study Questions for 1 Timothy 4:6-11**

1. What are some foolish myths that you have been exposed to on social media, entertainment media or books that you've read? Have you ever been in a situation where other Christians have tried to engage you in conversations about things that have no spiritual benefit? How should we respond?
2. Note from the following verses what the New Testament teaches about “godliness.”  
1 Timothy 6:3 –  
  
1 Timothy 6:11 –  
  
2 Peter 1:3 –  
  
2 Timothy 3:12 –
3. What practical ways are you obeying 1 Timothy 4:7 (training yourself to godliness)?
4. How does 1 Timothy 4:8 relate to our American culture today? How has the culture impacted Christians?
5. How does godliness enhance the teaching of God's Word? Compare Philippians 4:9.