

## 1 Timothy 4:12-16

Pg 992

**Argument: Christian, your growth in godliness requires your enduring attention.**

I. Christian, set the believers a godly example, don't be an excuse for their rejection of God's truth (12)

II. Christian, devote yourself to the ministry of God's Word, not your own authority (13)

III. Christian, use the gift God gave you for His glory and the Church's good, not your own gain (14)

IV. Christian, pay close attention to your life and doctrine, because lives are at stake (15-16)

## Sermon Study Guide

(Reminder: The purpose of the questions is to explore the text and themes of the sermon. **Do not feel a need to go through all of the questions.**

The goal is to stimulate discussion/reflection and transformation related to the sermon text and themes.)

1. Is there a specific age where people are no longer looked down upon? How is the challenge of age addressed by being the right example before others (v. 7, 12)? How might this process also be frustrating? At the end of v. 12 Paul mentions five areas to set an example in. Do these areas address every area of life, if not what additional area(s) of life should be included?
2. Since we have such ready access to God's word (digital & print), does that mean we no longer need to devote ourselves to the public reading of Scripture? Why has reading Scripture in church services become less common? What affect has that had? What's the difference between "exhortation" and "teaching", why should both be present in our corporate worship?
3. In v. 14, Paul testified to Timothy's gifting from the Spirit and observed by the elders. In other letters Paul taught that God gives a gift(s) to each believer which are to be used for God's glory and work, and the church's good (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-7, 27-31; Eph. 4:8). Jesus taught that those entrusted with a stewardship will be held responsible for its use (Mt. 25:14-30; Lk. 19:12-27). So, in what unique ways is God's Spirit working through you to minister to others? How is the church affected upon seeing God's Spirit use His gifts in ministry?
4. Doesn't "practice these things, immerse yourself in them" (v. 15) sound a lot like "train yourself in godliness" (v. 7b)? What practical actions is God calling you to pursue? In what practical ways can the church observe the spiritual growth/progress of its leaders?
5. Paul drives home the personal nature of his teaching "Keep a close watch on yourself and the teaching" (v. 16). What should that look like in your life and service? Discuss the differences between biblical "watchfulness" and sinful "self-absorption". How could Paul say that watching your life and doctrine will save yourself and others?