

W O M E N ' S B I B L E S T U D Y

Equipped

F O R T H E F I G H T

Servanthood

1 Timothy 4:8-16

Lesson 6

In this week's chapter of 1 Timothy, the Apostle Paul continues to instruct Timothy on the importance of being a godly example. He challenges Timothy to preach the Word with all diligence because false prophets abounded. These fake teachers were trying to lead Christians astray and only the true Word of God could perfectly silence them. He reminds Timothy to not only talk about the Word but to live it out because the most powerful messages are often those that are seen rather than those that are heard.

Paul names several specific ways in which pastors are to demonstrate godly living. But, this list really applies to all who consider themselves to be God's servants. If we are to be godly examples, it must be evident in the words we speak. Our speech should be kind, honest, and loving. Not only does our speech matter, but so does our conduct or lifestyle. Loving God and His people must be the motivating factor for our every action. As His servants, we should also have a joyful attitude because all we do is for the Lord. Finally, Paul finishes up his list by challenging us to be faithful to the Lord and to walk in purity.

Paul encourages Timothy to be as devoted to godliness as an athlete is to his sport. Timothy's spiritual life was to be committed fully to Christ not as a second thought or a part-time job. True servants of God have the same type of dedication. They are disciplined and willingly make personal sacrifices for the sake of the Gospel. They voluntarily and happily set aside their own comfort and desires to serve God and His people. Let's pray that when others see us, they will witness living, breathing, dedicated examples of godly servants!

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer

This Week's Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:8-16

"For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. ⁹This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. ¹⁰For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. ¹¹These things command and teach. ¹²Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. ¹³Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. ¹⁴Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. ¹⁵Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. ¹⁶Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you." NKJV

This Week's Memory Verse:

"For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe."

1 Timothy 4:10

1. Bodily and spiritual exercise are contrasted in verse 8 of this week's scripture. Bodily exercise "profits a little." But, what does godliness profit? _____

a. There are actually two promises in the latter half of this verse – one for the here and now and one that is to come. According to John 8:12, what kind of life are we promised to have now? _____

b. What kind of life is to come, according to the promise given in John 5:24? _____

c. How do both of these promises give you strength to continue exercising godliness? _____

"You will not stroll into Christlikeness with your hands in your pockets, shoving the door open with a careless shoulder. This is no hobby for one's leisure moments, taken up at intervals when we have nothing much to do, and put down and forgotten when our life grows full and interesting... It takes all one's strength, and all one's heart, and all one's mind, and all one's soul, given freely and recklessly and without restraint."

– A. J. Gossip (1873-1954)

2. According to verse 10 of this week's scripture, why will we both labor and suffer reproach?

a. How does Paul describe this struggle in 2 Corinthians 4:7-12? _____

b. Do these scriptures encourage or discourage you? Why? _____

3. None the less, what instruction does Paul give Timothy in verse 11? _____

a. According to Ephesians 4:14, why are we to adhere to sound doctrine? _____

Group Discussion

Have you ever been exposed to unsound doctrine? How did you come to know the truth?

4. Paul then personally addresses Timothy about his age. Apparently, there were those who thought Timothy was too young to have so much responsibility. How does Paul tell Timothy to conduct himself in verse 12? _____

a. Can you apply this verse to a time in the past when you may have been judged for your age, race or level of education? _____

5. What further counsel does Paul give Timothy in verses 13-16 to silence his naysayers?

a. Thankfully, we do not have to try to follow these commands on our own. How does Philippians 4:13 help you to put aside what others think and focus entirely on our Lord, His Word and the Holy Spirit working in you? _____

“In submission we are free to value other people. Their dreams and plans become important to us. We have entered into a new, wonderful, glorious freedom, the freedom to give up our own rights for the good of others. For the first time we can love people unconditionally. We have given up the right for them to return our love. No longer do we feel that we have to be treated in a certain way. We can rejoice with their successes. We feel genuine sorrow at their failures. It is of little consequence that our plans are frustrated if their plans succeed. We discover that it is far better to serve our neighbor than to have our own way.”

– Richard J. Foster

