

## **Church Life: A Good Minister**

### **1 Timothy 4:1-6**

*1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; 5 for it is [b]sanctified by the word of God and prayer. 6 If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.*

#### **1. The Good Minister Warns The Church Concerning False Teaching**

- **False teachers are energized by the deceptions of Satan. (1a)**
- **False teachers lead people away from the faith and truth. (1b)**

**"Apostasy" - a wilful turning away; to depart from; to remove oneself from the position originally occupied to another place.**

**Adolph Hitler said this, "I freed Germany from the stupid and degrading fallacies of conscience and morality. We will train young people before whom the world will tremble. I want young people capable of violence--relentless and cruel."**

- **False teachers live lives characterized by hypocrisy. (2)**
- **False teachers deny the Word of God. (3-5)**

## 2. The Good Minister Teaches The Church The Truth. (6a)

- **To help people to know what they believe.**
- **To help people to know the path to walk.**
- **To protect people from being seduced and led astray**
- **To protect people from the dangers of apostasy.**
- **To guide people towards the path of spiritual growth.**

### INTENDING TO GROW

In the 1920s there was a young African American child who was growing up in Cleveland. One day a famous athlete named Charlie Paddock, came to his school to speak to the students. At the time Paddock was considered "the fastest human being alive." He told the children, "Listen! What do you want to be? You name it and then believe that God will help you be it."

That little boy decided that he too wanted to be the fastest human being on earth. The boy went to his track coach and told him of his new dream. His coach told him, "It's great to have a dream, but to attain your dream you must build a ladder to it. Here is the ladder to your dreams. The first rung is determination! And the second rung is dedication! The third rung is discipline! And the fourth rung is attitude!" The result of all that motivation is that he went on to win four gold medals in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. He won the 100 meter dash and broke the Olympic and world records for the 200 meter. His broad jump record lasted for twenty-four years. His name was Jesse Owens.

Spiritual growth is not an accident. It is intentional. You must intend to grow. You must make a choice to grow. I don't know how to say it any clearer than this. You are as close to Jesus Christ as you choose to be. If you are not growing spiritually don't blame your wife or husband or kids or parents or pastor. You are as close to God as you choose to be. If you don't feel close to God right now, guess who moved? God didn't move.

### **3. The Good Minister Is Nourished by The Word of God. (6b)**

- **Nourished in the words of the faith.**  
-2 Timothy 3:16-17
- **Nourished through sound doctrine.**  
-2 Timothy 1:13; 2:1-2
- **Noticed by a life characterized by God's Words.**

**“But he is unworthy of the name of a minister of the gospel of peace, who is unwilling, not only to have his name cast out as evil, but also to die for the truths of the Lord Jesus.”**

**-George Whitefield**

**Conclusion:**

**“The Man of God cannot give out what he does not take in.” - John MacArthur**