

## XII. A GOOD SERVANT OF CHRIST JESUS (pt.2): 1 Timothy 4:10

**BIG IDEA:** What it looks like to be a good servant of Christ Jesus.

### I. A good servant of Christ Jesus reminds God's people of the dangers of false teachers (v. 6a)

**1 Timothy 4:6a** "If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus,"

### II. A good servant of Christ Jesus nourishes himself on the scriptures (v. 6b)

**1 Timothy 4:6b** "being trained (*nourished*) in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed."

### III. A good servant of Christ Jesus avoids silly myths (v. 7a)

**1 Timothy 4:7a** "Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths."

### IV. A good servant of Christ trains himself for godliness (v. 7b)

**1 Timothy 4:7b** "Rather train yourself for godliness;"

#### Q. Why does a good servant of Christ train himself for godliness?

**1 Timothy 4:8-9** "8 for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

9 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance."

### V. A good servant of Christ toils and strives (v. 10a)

**1 Timothy 4:10a** "For to this end we toil and strive,"

#### – JOHN MACARTHUR POINTS OUT THIS HELPFUL QUOTE BY J.

**Oswald Sanders:** "If he is unwilling to pay the price of fatigue for his leadership, it will always be mediocre...True leadership always exacts a heavy toll on the whole man, and the more effective the leadership is, the higher the price to be paid" (Spiritual Leadership, 175, 169).

#### – **Toil and Strive: Colossians 1:28-29** "28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I TOIL, STRUGGLING (same word as "strive" in 1 Timothy 4:10) with all his energy that he powerfully works within me."

**Q.** Do you toil and strive for godliness?

### VI. A good servant of Christ has their hope fixed on the living God (v. 10b)

**1 Timothy 4:10b** "because we have our hope set on the living God,"

#### – **JOHN TRAPP:** "Because godliness hath so much happiness laid up in the promises, and there is so much certainty of the performance of those promises, therefore we both [toil and strive]... The [destination] sweetens

the journey."

– **An Orthodox Catechism #1.**

**Q1. What is your only comfort in life and death?**

**A.** That both in soul and body (a), whether I live or die (b), I am not my own, but belong wholly unto my most faithful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (c). By His most precious blood fully satisfying for all my sins (d), He has delivered me from all the power of the devil (e), and so preserves me (f), that without the will of my heavenly Father not so much as a hair may fall from my head (g). Yes, all things must serve for my safety (h) and by His Spirit, also He assures me of everlasting life (i), and makes me ready and prepared (j), that from now on I may live to Him."

- **1 Peter 1:8** "Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,"

**Q.** Have you set your hope on the living God? **A.** This is the only way you will be able to toil and strive for His glory and your godliness.

## Q. Why?

**1 Timothy 4:10c** "who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe."

- **3 WAYS TO TAKE THIS:** **1)** Universalism. **2)** Offered to all people as Savior. **3)** Savior in a temporary sense, as in common grace, and then He is both the temporal and eternal Savior of those who believe.
- **MACARTHUR:** "He gives common grace to all men. Unbelievers experience God's goodness and mercy in that they are not instantly killed for their sin. Nor does He give them constant pain and permanent deprivation. They experience His temporal blessings in this life."
- **The point is this:** A faithful servant of Christ Jesus toils and strives for godliness, having his hope set on the living God, who is his Savior, not in the temporary sense that He is of the entire world, but in the eternal sense that He is for we who believe.
- **You, believers, have an eternal Savior who went to the cross in your place** to buy for you an inheritance that is unfading, undefiled, kept in heaven for you!
- **Christ was exhausted and agonized for you in His death**, so that you would have both a perfect example and an eternal hope as you exhaust yourself and are agonized for Him in your life!

## CONCLUSION

**1 Corinthians 15:51-58** "51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When the perishable puts on the

imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

**55** “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

**56** The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**58** Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

- ***Therefore, set your hope on Him! Toil and strive after Him! None of your labors for Christ are in vain.***