



SUNDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Your Life is Louder Than Your Words

Passage: 1 Timothy 4:11-16

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Everyone of us is influencing someone, whether we realize it or not. People are watching how we respond to difficulties, how we treat others, and how we live our faith day by day. The question is not whether we have influence, but what kind of influence we are having. That is the heart of Paul's instruction to Timothy. Before Timothy was a pastor, he was a Christian, and his greatest testimony would not be found in his words but in his life. The same is true for each of us. Tonight, as we study this passage, we will discover three simple principles that will help us live lives that point others to Jesus Christ.

I. Live a Life Worth Following (Verse 12)

Paul reminds Timothy that the greatest way to earn influence is not by insisting people listen to you. It's by living a life they cannot ignore.

People may forget your words, but they rarely forget your life.

Even people who disagree with your faith are quietly observing to see whether your life matches what you claim to believe.

Christianity shouldn't be something people only hear when you speak. It should be something they see when you live.



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Your life may be the only Bible some people ever read.

Before you try to influence people with your words, ask the Lord to make your life worth following. Because people may forget your words, but they rarely forget your life.

II. Never Stop Growing (Verses 13-15)

The Christian life was never meant to stand still.

The tragedy isn't that we struggle. The tragedy is when we become content to stay where we are spiritually.

A healthy Christian should be able to look back over the past year and say, "God has changed me."

God isn't asking for perfection. He's asking for progress.

Spiritual maturity isn't measured by how far you've come compared to someone else. It's measured by whether you're still moving toward Christ.

Paul gives Timothy several practical habits: reading God's Word, receiving biblical instruction, meditating on truth, and giving himself wholeheartedly to the things of God.

Every day we need fresh fellowship with the Lord because every day He is continuing the work of making us more like His Son.

III. Leave a Legacy Worth Following (Verse 16)

Paul reminds us that how we finish matters because someone else is watching us run. Our race is not just about us. Every step of faith we take is helping someone else learn what it looks like to follow Christ.



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Character isn't built in a moment, and neither is a legacy. Both are formed one ordinary day at a time through countless decisions to simply remain faithful to Christ.

God uses faithful lives to point other people to the Savior.

God has always delighted in using ordinary people who consistently walk with Him.

Conclusion: Every one of us is influencing someone, whether we realize it or not. The question is not whether we will leave an impact, but what kind of impact we will leave. Paul's challenge to Timothy was to guard his life, remain faithful, and continue following Christ because others were watching. May we determine to live in such a way that our lives point others to Jesus and leave a lasting spiritual influence on those God has placed around us.



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