

The Portraits of a Praiseworthy Pastor

Ministry lessons from Paul to Timothy, his son in the faith.

Introduction: Priming the pump for tonight's discussion.

- Let's begin with our own observations. Was there a moment where God spoke to you, showed you something new, or reminded you of a familiar truth through the message this week?

Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.

- Timothy was encouraged to stay clear of wives' tales and fables, and to give himself fully to the Word of God. In our culture today, it seems like there's a new sensational fable that pretends to speak for God about every five seconds. Unfortunately, many Believers...even Pastors...are getting snared by extra biblical or unbiblical sensational fables. When the next one comes along, what are some ways that we can spot a fable and determine whether it's in line with the Bible or out in left field? How do we protect ourselves from getting worked up over things that are speculation, but not firmly rooted in God's Word?
- One important aspect of Timothy's ministry was to be an example to the church. His love for people, the way that he spoke, his attitude and actions, his daily walk in the Spirit, and his purity were to be an example that others could follow. The result of following Timothy's example should be that people are growing in Christ-likeness. What's the importance of us all being examples to others, and should we take this calling seriously? Let's point the finger at ourselves and put ourselves under the microscope first. Remember what Jesus said about the splinter and the beam.
- There are wonderful examples in the Bible of Pastors who teach God's Word, and then come alongside it to explain what it means and how believers should apply it to their lives. When Pastors lead like this, they create churches that appreciate the teaching of the Bible and members who develop a high view of God's Word. How has being a part of a Bible teaching church changed you? What is your reaction now when you hear sermons that are devoid of Biblical teaching?
- Paul wrote that every believer has at least one spiritual gift, and that we should all use our gifts to serve the body of Christ. Timothy was warned not to neglect his gift, which he received by prophecy and the laying on of hands by the Elders. What is the danger of neglecting our gifts? What are the results of neglecting the gifts within us, for ourselves, for others, for the church, and for the great commission?

Additional Scriptures for Deeper Study:

- Galatians 1:8
- Colossians 3:2
- Galatians 5:22-23
- James 1:13
- 1 Peter 1:13-16

Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?

- All joking aside, are you the kind of Christian who frequently gets carried away by the sensational tales on social media? What practical steps should you take to make sure that you're not chasing fables?
- Is there an area in your life where you are being a great example to others? Is there an area that needs improvement? How are you pointing or preventing others around you from being more like Jesus?