

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 4:6-16 TITLE: "FAITHFUL: Servant"**

**Intro: Laying the foundation of a building and home.** Wait for it to cure and strengthen. Still setting this in order. Timothy is to lay the foundation. Part of this is his own growth and stability. Waiter setting a table, serving food and drinks. Or Builder drawing/setting plans/foundation.

**Thesis:** *"Faithful Servants of Jesus Lead in their Exercise & Example of Faith."*

**I. Eat & Exercise (4:6-10) ("Minister"?) Deacon**

- A. **Take care of yourself.** "Nourishment." Educated. Work on yourself. Watch yourself.
- B. **Make sure you're healthy & growing.** Progress. Repentance. **You need that for me!**
- C. **Gymnasia.** Practice. Toil. Train. Strive. Soak. Persist. Progressively Persistent.

**ILLUSTRATION: Eat Healthy & Exercise.** Good Diet. Going to the Gym. Consistency is key. You will see growth and change over time. You'll build strength/endurance. If not, then you'll become sluggish, tired, out of shape, weak, unhealthy, out of breath, self-conscience, insecure, guilty, shame filled. I know it!

- D. **Know what you believe.** Words of Faith. Gospel. Good doctrine. Teaching. Gospel words/lingo. Theology. *"Grace, Repentance & Faith, Union w/ Christ, Believing Gospel, love, Glory, Resurrection, Peace, Justification, Righteousness, preaching to self, etc."*
- E. **Live what you believe.** Repentance & Faith. Godliness applying to all life. Relevant.
- F. **Don't get distracted.** Silly myths. Irreverent things. Old Wives Tales. Gossip. Unfounded. Unproved rambling. *"Did you hear about...?"*

**APPLICATION:** *"You don't have to go to Church to be a Christian."* True. But it's a good way to be a weak, unhealthy, tired, lethargic, sluggish, troubled, self-conscience, insecure, guilty, shame filled, easily worn out Christian. Same with other discipline (Reading, Prayer, etc.)

**II. Example (4:11-16)**

- A. **v.6, 11 "These Things"** Almost named sermon series. Titus too. What are they? Truths!
- B. **Don't let them disrespect, look down on you.** Find cause to either. Christ's Servant.

**ILLUSTRATION: "Youth."** *This isn't just a pithy verse for the youth group walls. Haha! :-)*

- C. **Courage/Confidence:** Called, Qualified, Confirmed & Commissioned Servant of Jesus.
- D. **Called to Ministry:** Bible (prophecy), Gifts (abilities/desire), Affirmed/Endorsed (Presby)
- E. **Set Example:** Talk, Act, Love, Faith & Sex. Speak well, live well, love well, believe well.

**ILLUSTRATION: Robert Murray McCheyene.** Scottish Pastor. Died @ 29. Bible Read Plan. *"My people's greatest need is my personal holiness."* If I'm growing, I can help them grow. If I'm repenting, I can help others repent. If my conscience is clear, I can preach with conviction and depth. Not watered down, but specific. If I'm praying, they'll be better off. If I'm believing the gospel, fearing God and I'm not self-conscience, I'll be able to love without fear.

**ILLUSTRATION: Trainer at the gym.** Imagine going to the gym. You could have someone that can tell you how to be healthy. They could tell you what to eat. What form to lift. What exercises to do. Tell you all the right things, but you would prefer for them to practicing it themselves. To be healthy. That would be the expectation. Wouldn't it? Exemplify what they're telling you.

- F. **Focus on Public Worship. Means of Grace.** Public Reading, Preaching, Teaching.

**ILLUSTRATION: Stay Basic!** *"Gentlemen, this is a football."* Vince Lombardi. Training camp.

- G. **It's not about setting an example of righteousness, but repentance & faith & growth.**
- H. **For the salvation of Souls. Yours and others. Especially those who believe? ie.** Particularly, specifically, mainly, to be precise. Dictating/Writing/Manuscripts/parchment.

**APPLICATION:** As a church, we get to focus on the basics. Reading, Praying, Singing and Preaching God's Word. We want to keep it simple, and keep it lined up with Scripture. And yes, repetitive at times. It's a healthy consistent diet.

**Called to Ministry:** Young people. Missions. Ministry. Inward Call (gifts)? Bible? Others see it? Men: Elders, Deacons, Teachers, Pastoral ministry, etc.