

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: **1Timothy 4:13-16.**

Until I come, give attention to the *public reading of Scripture*, to exhortation and teaching. [14] Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed upon you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. [15] Take pains with these things; be *absorbed* in them, so that your progress may be evident to all. [16] Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things; for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

- B. The apostle Paul had a great desire to come to Ephesus again and see Timothy, and the other brethren. We do not know if he ever made it.
- C. But until he could come and be with the brethren, he wanted Timothy to do certain things. I believe we can take this statement and apply it to X and His second coming.
- D. Until X comes ... emphasize, use, devote, and take. Do the following!

II. EMPHASIZE GOD'S WORD.

A. See 1Tim. 4:13.

Until I come, give attention to the *public reading of Scripture*, to exhortation and teaching.

- B. There are three main admonitions here. Timothy is to devote himself to what is read from the Scriptures, to exhortation, and to doctrine.
 - 1. To the public reading of Scripture.
 - a. It is important that the church publicly reads from the Word of God. As the evangelist, it was part of his duties to see that the Word was read, and what was read was appropriate.
 - b. Every Xian should devote themselves to the reading of Scripture.
 - 2. To exhortation.
 - a. This means encouragement. To warn if necessary, but most of all to be a source of strength for others.
 - b. Every Xian is to encourage others to be faithful (Heb. 10:24).
and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,
 - 3. To doctrine.
 - a. The teachings must come from the truth and be what the people need to hear. Some 22 times in 1 & 2Tim. & Titus, Paul mentions teaching or doctrine. It was important to Paul that the brethren be taught and taught correctly.
 - b. Every Xian should be able to teach some truth from the Bible.

III. USE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

A. See 1Tim. 4:14.

Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed upon you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery.

- B. The world uses the word *charisma* to denote one who is gifted with a great personality and commanding appearance.
- C. Every Xian has the gift of the HS, and therefore, possesses some gift from the Spirit. We are to use our gift(s) accordingly (Rom. 8:9; 12:6-8).
(Rom 8:9) However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.
(Rom 12:6-8) And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *let each exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; [7] if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; [8] or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
- D. One of the saddest things is to have a blessing or gift and not use it. Such is not pleasing to God. The same would be true if one has a gift and does not use it in the right way (Mt. 25:25-28).

‘And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground; see, you have what is yours.’ [26] “But his master answered and said to him, ‘You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I scattered no *seed*. [27] ‘Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my *money* back with interest. [28] ‘Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’

- E. One needs to find out the things they can do for others and then use that gift for God’s glory. It would seem that Timothy had a gift but was not using it.
- F. Next month, on Sunday the first, Lord willing, I will speak about spiritual gifts (miraculous and those non-miraculous).

IV. DEVOTE YOURSELF FULLY TO CHRIST.



- A. See 1Tim. 4:15.
Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress may be evident to all.
- B. There is only one way to succeed in the business of souls. One must be totally devoted to the task.
- C. Paul tells Timothy to be “absorbed” in the work of an evangelist. Paul himself mentioned “this one thing I do...” (see Phil. 3:13).
- D. Jesus said that no one can serve two masters (Mt. 6:24).
“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.
- E. Every Xian who wants to go to heaven must decide that in all their ways they must be devoted to X. Without such a commitment there can be no spiritual growth.

V. TAKE SPIRITUAL INVENTORY.



- A. See 1Tim. 4:16.
Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things; for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.
- B. “Take heed to yourself.” Jesus said this teaching in another way. He told us to take the beam out of our eye, before we get the speck out of someone else’s eye (see Mt. 7:1-4).
- C. Don’t try to teach others until you have taught yourself.
- D. Only by knowing what is right in your own life, can you be assured of helping others find what is right for their life.
- E. Self-examination is the first task in helping others get to heaven (2Cor. 13:5).
Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you-- unless indeed you fail the test?

VI. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.



- A. Paul also said in 4:16 that Timothy was to persevere. We cannot sit back and rest on our laurels and be acceptable to God.
- B. Faithfulness means an everyday commitment to X.
- C. Until X comes may we devote ourselves to these things:
 - 1. The reading of Scripture.
 - 2. The using of our spiritual gifts.
 - 3. Fully devoting ourselves to X.
 - 4. Taking spiritual inventory as we help others.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.