

A GOOD MINISTER OF JESUS CHRIST
1 Timothy 4:6-16

Introduction:

- 1. The word “minister” in this context comes from “diakonos.”**
 - a. It is the same word which is transliterated as “deacon.”**
 - b. It is a general word which simply means “servant.”**
 - c. “Ministry” is a word meaning “service.”**

- 2. Franklin Camp wrote an article entitled “Entering the Ministry.”**
 - a. He said he was baptized at the age of twelve.**
 - b. He did not begin preaching but he “entered the ministry” at that time.**

- 3. Every Christian is a “minister” in the sense of being a servant.**
 - a. “Deacons” are a special class of servants (Phil. 1:1).**
 - b. Preachers (evangelists) are ministers of the Word of God.**
 - c. Each Christian is a servant of God and has a ministry.**

- 4. There are some things a good minister must do and be.**
 - a. These things have particular application to Timothy, a minister of the Word, an evangelist.**
 - b. They also have a general application to all Christians for we are all servants of Christ.**

Discussion:

- I. A GOOD MINISTER WILL REJECT PROFANE, OLD WIVES’ FABLES.**
 - A. These are superstitious tales such as are told by old women.**
 - 1. They are profane, not that which encourages godliness.**
 - 2. Some think they refer to farfetched stories found in the Jewish Talmud and other non-Biblical literature of Jews.**

 - B. Such tales have no place in the proclamation of the Gospel**

for it is rooted in solid facts of history (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

II. A GOOD MINISTER WILL EXERCISE TOWARD GODLINESS.

- A. Godliness is being spiritually minded, living a God-like life.**
- B. The ancient Greeks placed great emphasis on body building.**
 - 1. Exercise of the body has a limited value in life on earth.**
 - 2. Godliness is profitable for this life and for eternity!**
 - 3. It is tragic that we place so much emphasis on our physical bodies and so little on our spiritual lives!**

III. A GOOD MINISTER WILL LABOR AND SUFFER REPROACH.

- A. The Greek word for “labor” means working to the point of exhaustion.**
- B. Faithful Christians will always be reproached (2 Tim. 3:12).**
 - 1. We work and endure reproach because we trust God.**
 - 2. God is the Savior of all men potentially (1 Tim. 2:3, 4).**
 - 3. He is the Savior of those who have obeyed the Gospel in particular (Hebrews 5:9).**

IV. A GOOD MINISTER WILL BE AN EXAMPLE TO OTHER BELIEVERS.

- A. Timothy was a young man, but we do not know his age.**
 - 1. Ancient Greeks divided life into three ages:**
 - a. Childhood: birth to age 18.**
 - b. Youth: 18 to 40.**
 - c. Old age: 40 to death.**
 - 2. Timothy was probably in his late 20’s or early 30’s.**
 - 3. Ancient culture respected age unlike modern times.**
- B. Timothy was to be an example in speech, conduct (behavior), love, spirit (attitude), faith, and purity (morality).**

V. A GOOD MINISTER WILL GIVE ATTENTION TO READING, EXHORTATION AND TEACHING.

- A. Public reading of the Scriptures was done in early worship.**
 - 1. Scriptures were read in the synagogues (Luke 4:16-21).**
 - 2. Christians today neglect Scripture reading in worship.**
- B. Exhortation is encouragement to obey God's Word while teaching is instruction in God's Word (2 Tim. 4:2).**

VI. A GOOD MINISTER WILL NOT NEGLECT HIS GIFT.

- A. Timothy possessed a miraculous gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:12; 6:5-8; 8:14-17; 19:6).**
 - 1. His particular gift was a matter of prophecy (Acts 15:32).**
 - 2. It was given to him at the time the elders laid hands on him to appoint him to the work (Acts 16:1-3; 13:2,3).**
 - 3. Paul, as an apostle, was the actual conferee (2 Tim. 1:6).**
- B. Every Christian has a natural gift or talent (Matt. 25:14-30).**
- C. A good minister will "take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress may be evident to all" (NASB).**

VII. A GOOD MINISTER TAKES HEED TO HIMSELF AND HIS TEACHING.

- A. One must be sure he teaches the truth and lives in harmony with what he teaches (Ezra 7:10; Acts 20:28).**
- B. By faithfully serving the Lord, we will save ourselves as well as those we serve (Philippians 2:12).**

Conclusion:

- 1. There is never a time when a Christian can quit and think he has done enough - we must persevere to the end.**
- 2. One must be in the ministry in order to receive the minister's reward.**

