

FOUNDATIONAL ELEMENTS OF YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY – 1 TIMOTHY 4:12-16

1 Timothy was written by Paul to the young _____, giving him both personal and church-wide directions on conduct and order. This letter is an invaluable lesson to every minister at any time throughout history and is especially encouraging in these last days. However, these teachings go beyond their scope of pastoral instruction and also _____ to every individual church member. Here in today's text we see the Apostle's exhortation for us all to maintain a profitable personal _____ as an _____ to others for their profit, for our own personal well-being, and for the increase of the Lord's work.

1. Good advice concerning the _____ of the Lord in your local church – 1 Timothy 4:12a, b

a. Do _____ be intimidated – verse 12a

- Because of your age or inexperience as...

A young pastor

A young discipler

An inexperienced speaker

A young or inexperienced leader

A new believer or even as a new member

- If you have the approval and blessing of your Pastors, move forward – verse 14b

Certainly, with humility

Studying to show yourself approved

Working hard, doing over and above what is required

Laboring with a right heart attitude

Always remaining teachable

b. Seeking to be an _____ to other believers – verse 12b

- A pastor is to be a good example – 1 Peter 5:2-3; 1 Thess. 1:7; 1 Thess. 3:9

A pastor with a poor testimony will deeply harm the members

- Every believer and church is to be a _____ example – Mt. 5:16; Ro. 12:1; 1 Cor. 10:31; 2 Cor. 5:20; 1 Thess. 1:7; 1 Thess. 3:9

A believer with a poor testimony will deeply harm the Lord and some believers in the church

A church with a poor testimony will harm the cause of Christ inflicting irreparable damage

2. Foundational elements of your personal testimony – 1 Timothy 4:12c-16

a. Be an example in:

- Word – How you speak, what you say – Eph. 4:29
- Conversation – Manner of life, conduct and behaviour – Phil. 1:27
- Charity – An attitude of giving something without expecting anything in return – 1 Cor. 13
 - Benevolence – helping someone in need
 - Forgiving fellow believers for personal wrongs or insults
 - Giving fellow believers the benefit of the doubt
 - Giving people a second chance, or three or four
 - Helping others that don't necessarily deserve it
 - Being gracious to others, especially to those that don't deserve it
 - Loving the unlovely, unpopular, outcast or outsider
 - Caring for the sick or infirmed
 - Kind-heartedness or pity toward the unsaved
 - Loving the word(s) of God
 - Believing and responding to sound doctrinal and biblical teaching
- Spirit (spirit) – Having a right heart attitude toward the lost, the ministry, persecution, trouble, success, and victory; it is having a _____ for the things God has given
- Faith – Patiently waiting on the Lord for answered prayer, standing on the promises of scripture, pressing forward with Jesus no matter what your state or circumstances – Ro. 10:17; Heb. 11:1
- Purity – _____ filth of all kinds, immorality, false doctrines, social mischiefs of all kinds, intellectualism, science falsely so-called, arrogance, foul-mouth, immodest dress and behaviour
- Reading – The _____—privately and publicly; quality novels, good reference books, journals and periodicals are also included...
 - Constant and continuous reading is very healthy for the mind, keeping your comprehension sharp
- Exhortation – Encourage the brethren to do over and above what is required, _____ others in word and deed, challenging yourself and others to do every thing better for God
 - Every good leader seeks to inspire people to do things that they would normally not attempt to do
- Doctrine – Know how to study the Bible; preach and _____ what the Bible says

b. Exercise your spiritual gift(s)

- If you don't know what your gift(s) are, systematically serve and participate in everything until it becomes obvious to you and your peers

c. Guard your personal testimony by:

- Meditating on these things
- Giving yourself wholly to them
- Seeking to be _____ to everyone in our church
- Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine – 1 Thess. 5:22
 - Be careful where you go
 - Be careful what you do
 - Be careful who you spend time and associate with
 - Be careful what you watch and who you listen to
 - Be on guard at all times in every thing
 - Be ever growing and maturing
 - Pray about and work on your shortcomings

3. Closing comments on your personal testimony

a. Always seek to have a good testimony

- _____ in all these things

b. If you will do this...

- You will _____ yourself
- You will save those that _____ you