



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

1, 2 Kings Sermon Series

Supports Session 1: God Moves

Sermon Title: "Living Out God's Word" (1 Timothy 4:11-16)

Connection to 2 Kings 22:8-20

Upon hearing God's Word, Josiah responded in obedience. Paul told Timothy to build his ministry on God's Word so that others could hear and respond in obedience.

Introduction/Opening

Some say that there are two types of people in this world; those who start with the instructions when putting something together and those who return to the instructions after several hours of unproductive work. Our Father has left us His Word and we should turn to it first. Paul told Timothy to begin his ministry with God's Word. We find practical things that each of us can embrace from this passage that would prove helpful from the start.

Outline

1. We are to Teach God's Word (v. 11).

If someone told us that $2+2=5$ most of us would begin to teach them that $2+2=4$. We would take the information that we know to be true and out of love begin to share the truth. To not do this would be unloving.

Paul told Timothy to command and teach these things which is a direct reference to Scripture. In Paul's second letter to Timothy, he told Timothy that "all Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching (2 Tim. 3:16). Some of us can hesitate to teach God's Word because we believe that we do not know enough and feel ill equipped. We are to take what we do know, while always striving to learn more, and share it with those around us.

2. We are to Set an Example for Others (v. 12).

Paul told Timothy to set an example for believers in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. The example is with one's entire life. Most, if not all, of our daily activities can be summed up in the list that Paul provided Timothy. Because the list encompasses one's total life, we are unable to compartmentalize our relationship with Jesus to Sunday morning and be found faithful to the command that is being taught here.

3. We are to Practice our Faith (v. 14-15).

Giving gifts is always a fun thing to do. It brings us great joy to see our loved ones open that special gift and enjoy it over an extended period. Our heavenly Father loves giving gifts too and He desires that we enjoy them as well. The greatest gift that He has given us

is His only begotten Son. Those of us who have a personal relationship with Him will enjoy the benefits of His substitutionary sacrifice throughout eternity.

Our Father has also given us spiritual gifts, and this is what Paul is referring to in these verses. Paul command Timothy to not neglect the gift given to him and this command applies to us as well. The word translated *neglect* means to set aside or disregard. We give gifts in the hopes that our loved ones will use and enjoy them. Our Father wants us to use and enjoy the spiritual gifts and not neglect them.

Paul went on to tell Timothy to practice or use the gifts that he was given. This once again applies to us. Using our spiritual gift of teaching, serving, giving, etc. is something that we get to do throughout our lifetime and thereby show our progress in the faith to those who are watching us.

4. We are to Persevere (v. 16).

The final command that Paul gave Timothy was to persevere in the faith. To persevere is the ability to continually stand up under extreme outside pressure.

Most of us admire those who finish a marathon. This is 26.2 miles of continuous running. The training they endure must feel relentless. Yet, during the race, they keep putting one foot in front of the other until they cross the finish line. The reward they receive is the satisfaction of knowing that they did something others were unable or unwilling to do.

Let's commit to run the marathon of this life and to persevere to the end. Yes, it may be difficult, but it will be worth it. Let's commit today as a church to teach God's Word, to set an example within our homes and in this community, and to use the gifts that God has given us for His glory. Let's commit to persevere and trust God for the results.

Conclusion

To persevere, we need to make sure that we are all at the start line of the race we call life. The starting line is marked by having a relationship with Jesus in which He is our Lord and Savior through faith in Him. Once we have this relationship, then the journey of living out God's Word begins, and the finish line is when we see Jesus face-to-face.

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