

## 1 TIMOTHY 4:7-10

False teaching had distracted the local church in Ephesus from its mission of preaching the gospel and making disciples.

So Paul writes to Timothy and the big message of his letter is: "Sort out the church for the sake of the gospel!"

Big reason why this is vital, we saw in verses 14 to 16, is that the church puts on display the truth about Jesus.

Paul now addresses Timothy directly and talks about how he is to be an example or a good servant of Christ Jesus (v6).

Look at what it means to be a group of faithful elders.

In verses 1 to 6 we saw that people will abandon Jesus because of false teaching so to be faithful elders we need to teach them the truth.

In verses 7 to 10 we see that in order to be faithful elders we need to pursue and value godliness.

"Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe." (1 Timothy 4:7-10)

### A. Pursue Godliness

1. Godliness is a life that revolves around God.

2. Godliness is the right response to the gospel.

"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe."

The gospel tells us that Jesus is the Saviour of all people – He is the potential Saviour of all.

The gospel tells us that Jesus saves all who believe.

3. Godliness does not come naturally to us.

Our lives usually revolve around us.

We need to train ourselves to be godly.

We need to toil and strive to this end.

Training is something we do both when we do and when we don't feel like it.

We do this by feeding on the truth of the gospel and by avoiding godless myths.

"Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness."

4. Godliness comes as we are more and more amazed by who Jesus is and what He has done for us.

### B. Value Godliness

1. Value godliness because it is the best way to live.

It's the best way to live now.

God's way is best for our work, marriage, friendship, church life.

2. Value godliness because it demonstrates our hope for the life to come.

It shows that we have put our trust in the Lord Jesus.

3. Value godliness because it is proof the gospel works.

### **C. Application**

1. We need to preach the gospel to ourselves.

Right motivation for godly living.

2. We need to persevere with preaching the gospel to ourselves even when we don't feel like it.

There will be dry periods.

Keep reminding yourself about the hope that you have.

3. We need to remember that our lives back up our message.

Why should anyone take the gospel seriously within the church if as leaders we don't.

Why should anyone take the gospel seriously outside the church if as leaders we don't.

ILL: Photo of Bus with words 'We are in a drought' but yet pouring with rain.