

We Are the Living Picture of God - 1 Timothy

God's Prescription for a Healthy Church - 1Tim. 4:11-16

Introduction: Here is God's solution to dulling, liberalizing tendencies in His Church. It is faithful men shepherding the local church by their humble modeling of the gospel of Christ's salvation & deliverance. It is by watching & hearing men who are embedded in the rich soil of the cross of Christ.

I. The elder's daily duty vs. 16

In order to prescribe, give charge, command vs. 11, elders must pay close attention, watch, take pains, with their life & doctrine.

Elders must first be about their own daily deliverance, transform, salv.

4:1, 4:6 possibly will be subtle, substitute of *works over grace*:

What is the merging compass of their life, their moral transformation?

Salvation: once declared/justified, also ongoing 1Cor. 1:18, 2 Cor 2:15

So this models for the flock their same salvation/deliverance by Jesus

II. The elder's personal requirements vs. 12

A. Tested. Timothy is "younger" he's mature, apostolic role conferred

B. Maintain internal and external character qualities

1. Timothy's speech

2. Timothy's conduct of life

3. Timothy's love Matt. 5:43-46

4. Timothy's faith

5. Timothy's purity

III. The elder's public requirements vss. 13, 14, 15

A. Public reading of scripture

B. Exhorting/preaching – uniquely suited by local pastor who prepares a sermon just for them. Greek: exhort, comfort, warn, alongside

C. Teaching

D. Serve openly the spiritual gift given you v. 14

E. Be transparent vs. 15 be seen w/ all your flaws and w/ all your confidence in your big God, beautiful Savior, powerful Holy Spirit

Application:

1. FBC- pray for elders/pastors, hold accountable to this scripture!

2. Each of these qualities of a faithful pastor/elder are qualities of Jesus. May we all see this growing in us, may we also pray for our fellows who are taking on these qualities. This is the Living Picture of our God who forgives, redeems, and transforms us into the likeness of Jesus!

1 Timothy 4:11-16 ESV

Command and teach these things. ¹² Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. ¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵ Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. ¹⁶ Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.