

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Sept 22, 2019

Building For The Future: What Youth Can Do

Pastor Temple (8, 10:30 Fest.), Pastor Hall (9:15, 10:30 Selah)

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share about personal events since you last met or about applying last week's message on Building For The Future: Thy Word-Finding Your Footwork?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

Opener Question: What advice would you give to an 18-22 year old who is setting out to be on their own for the first time? (question by Lyman Coleman)

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture, 1 Timothy 4:9-16. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

⁹ This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. ¹⁰ That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe. ¹¹ Command and teach these things. ¹² Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵ Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. ¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- What 5 areas are Timothy to set an example in (verse 12)? Which of these present the greatest challenge to you?
- Pastor Temple shared that purity or "hagneia", is "freedom from guilt or sin through being unacquainted with evil or lack of guile or corruption. What advice would you give young people today to have purity in " a society that has forgotten, as Jeremiah once said (Jer. 6:15), how to blush?"
- What guidance does Paul offer Timothy in verse 14 and what is his motivation in doing so?
- Why would it be important for people not only to see Timothy's example and hear his teaching, but to actually see Timothy progress in the faith? (verse 15)

- Why would some say it takes 5 generations of Christians to see proof of disciples making disciples who in turn make disciples?
- What may we infer to be the relationship between doctrine and salvation in verse 16?
- Though Timothy was older than we may interpret here (in his 20's and 30's), how are the things mentioned in these passages like faith and life and salvation relevant not matter the age of the person?

Other Related Readings (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read out loud Acts 16:1-5. Paul was young Timothy's mentor whom Timothy was able to travel with and see preaching and teaching the word of God. What are the benefits of an apprenticeship model of learning?
- What was their initial primary task (verses 4-5)?
- What do you think was all included in "decisions reached by the apostles and elders ...for the people to obey? Is this what church teaching and doctrine is?
- Would a volunteer please read out loud Acts 18:5-11. Like Paul had recommended Timothy do in 1 Tim 4:13, while in Corinth Paul "devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah" (Acts 18:5). How was this activity similar to or different than what they were doing in the previous Acts passage 16:1-5?
- What lessons could Timothy learn from Paul in seeing him both succeeding and failing with his dealings with people he was trying to reach?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- How is your knowledge of the basic doctrines of the church and how might you grow in this knowledge?
- What spiritual gifts have you or others identified in yourselves?
- What kind of spiritual work out plan would you set for yourself this week and in the coming weeks?
- How does your current spiritual work out plan compare with prior years?
- How may others benefit from our pursuing a spiritual work out plan (see 1 Timothy 4:16)?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- Pastor Temple mentioned the importance of synchronized faith and living as others are always watching. How does this encourage or motivate you to grow in your faith?
- When try to think of someone younger or with less experience with Christian faith than you whom you could help point in the right direction, whose name or face comes to mind?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer