

Well Done Good and Faithful Church – Focusing the Leadership

February 20, 2022

1 Tim. 4: 13-16

Shepherds are not managers or solely visionaries – but are to shepherd the flock.

Countdown to Effective Leadership

5 Commands: Public reading of Scripture, V13:

- 1) **To reading:** Ex.: Luke 4:16-20; Acts 13:13-41; Acts 15:6-21; NT Scripture read in early church: Col. 4:16; 1 Thess. 5:27; 1 Tim. 5:18 (Luke & Matt.); 2 Pet. 3:15-16; Rev. 1:3.
- 2) **To exhortation:** V13, explanation of the same text. Ex. Neh. 8. Putting words of the sermon into practice. Commands issued from Scripture: 1 Tim. 1:3, 1:18 “wage the good warfare;” 3:15 “how to behave;” 4:11 “command and teach;” 1 Tim. 6:2 “teach and exhort;” 6:17 “Command;” 2 Tim. 2:14 “charge them;” also 2 Tim. 4:2, Tit. 1:13, 2:15; the results of preaching the Word: Acts 13:42 “begged to hear it again!” The aim is love, 1 Tim. 1:5.
- 3) **To teaching:** V13, explain doctrinal truths within text rather than sentimental approach using limited Scripture. 2 Tim. 3:16, “All Scripture... is profitable...” Search for and teach doctrines within Scripture. Bibliology, perseverance of saints, soteriology, etc.
- 4) **Do not neglect the use of giftedness:** V14, there were prophesies given about Timothy – that he should remember his calling, possibly public ordination, see Acts 16: 1-5.
- 5) **Watch Yourself and your teaching:** V16. 1 Tim. 5:22, “keep pure,” 2 Tim. 2:15 “rightly handling the Word of God,” Tit. 2, be a model of good works to others, in teaching showing integrity.

4 Determinations of the Level of Commitment and Dedication Involved:

- 1) **Devote yourself:** “be addicted,” same word as in 1 Tim. 3:8, “do not be addicted to much wine.” Preparation for the Word of God. Ignoring members for the sake of spending time learning and preparation of the good food of the Word of God.
- 2) **Practice these things,** V15, meditating on, pondering, repetition of learning.
- 3) **Immerse yourself in them:** V15, immerse yourself in them, be in them, give yourselves entirely to them.
- 4) **Persist in this:** V16, “persist in this.” Meaning: “stay on it.” Continue in doctrine.

Determinations that are not here: pleasing people, entertain people, pander to them and make them happy. Instead, there is devotion, persisting and offering the food of the Word of God.

3 Results of this work:

- 1) **That all may see your progress,** V15. Same word as used about Jesus in Luke 2:52 and Paul in Gal. 1:14. Visible progress in personal godliness. Implies humble, teachable spirit
- 2) **Timothy will save himself:** V16, not salvation, but perseverance. 1 Tim. 2:15 “continue in faith,” Rom. 11:22, 1 Cor. 15:1-2 “hold fast,” Phil. 2:12 “work out”, Col. 1:23 “continue.”
- 3) **Saves those who hear:** V16, should expect to see conversions by those brought to hear the Word of God in our assemblies and inspire the faithfulness of the flock.

2 Applications: Sermons to all who are in partnership with the shepherds: The sheep!

- 1) **Really have a grasp of the duties of shepherds:** Shepherds are to preach the Word. They can't meet all expectations. Expect them to worship with you and bring the Word of God.
- 2) **Take advantage of feeding opportunities each week:** Grow from their efforts, 3 Jn. 4, take advantage of as many feedings as possible.

1 Prayer: 2 Thess. 3:1: That the word of the Lord may speed ahead as happened among you.

Further Discussion and Application

Realistic expectations of our shepherds are necessary to avoid frustration in our walk with Christ and with our leaders. How does hearing and studying the preached Word given to us each week build unity in the body and peace within us?

How can the members of the body prepare themselves for worship each week and the upcoming reading, exhortation and teaching of the Word of God? When should we start preparing? How should we prepare for it?

What are practical results of growing in Christ in a way that will be visible to others? What are some examples from Titus 2 that men and women should see in their lives?

How can we take advantage of the study and preparation of our pastors each week as they prepare to bring us the Word of God? What can we do in our study and learning as Steve teaches expositionally through the Scriptures? (Read and study the passage beforehand).

What is the goal of the preached Word for our lives from 1 Tim. 4:13? Continuing in the truth demonstrates that we will persevere to the end, how is the truth sanctifying your life and what fruit is being produced by what you are learning and continuing in?

How can we multiply the Word of God in our learning and in our sharing with others? Who can we disciple and encourage in order to share what we have learned and to fulfill Titus 2:1-15? Why will this help us to practice what we preach and have been preached?