

ADVICE TO A YOUNG MAN

TEXT – I TIMOTHY 1:18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

Paul considered Timothy to be his “son in the faith.” He wrote two letters (that we know of) to Timothy giving him some advice. God inspired these letters to be part of the Scriptures so that young men today might benefit by this good advice.

PAUL’S ADVICE:

1. BEHAVE YOURSELF

I TIMOTHY 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

- a) Paul wanted Timothy to know how to behave himself in the church.
- b) Today it seems like people are no longer interested in how they ought to behave themselves in church; or how the church should be conducted.
- c) We should study these letters to Timothy and apply Paul’s advice to ourselves in regard to church conduct.

2. GET SOME EXERCISE

I TIMOTHY 4:7-8 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

- a) Paul admonished timothy to get some spiritual exercise.
- b) Spiritual exercise is behaving in a Godly manner.

3. CONCENTRATE/FOCUS

I TIMOTHY 4:12-15 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

- a) Paul told Timothy to give himself completely to understanding the things of God and living them out so that all could see.
- b) He was advising him to concentrate on the right things in his life.

4. BE CAREFUL

I TIMOTHY 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

- a) Paul tells Timothy to keep an eye on himself and on the doctrine that he is preaching and living. It’s easy to get off track if you aren’t careful.

- b) Vigilance in these areas will not only save us from falling away from the Lord ourselves, but it will also allow us to maintain the correct message and influence on those around us.

5. STAY CLEAN

I TIMOTHY 5:22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

- a) Paul told Timothy to keep himself pure.
- b) The world is full of temptations for young man that will easily and swiftly get them in trouble. It is our own responsibility to make sure that we live a clean and pure life.

6. AVOID BAD INFLUENCES

I TIMOTHY 6:3-5 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

- a) Paul told Timothy to withdraw himself from certain types of people, those who are always questioning God's Word, fighting over doctrines, competing with others, criticizing others, etc.
- b) A young man would be wise to follow this example and avoid these people also. Seek out close friends who will draw you into a closer relationship with Christ.

7. BE A GOOD WORKER

II TIMOTHY 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- a) Paul admonishes Timothy to study hard and try to please the Lord.
- b) If we do not work diligently in the study of the Word of God, we will one day be ashamed when we stand before Him.

CONCLUSION: All of Paul's advice to Timothy is good advice for all young men today. We need to learn to behave ourselves in a Godly fashion, get some spiritual exercise, concentrate on the important things, be careful not to fall into false doctrine, stay clean from worldly temptations, avoid bad influences, and work hard at studying and understanding God's Word. All of this is sound spiritual advice. What will we do with it?