

Instructions on Doctrine and Worship (1 Timothy 4:9-16)

1. (4:9-11) Hope in God: Paul begins by declaring what he is about to say is faithful and worthy of holding fast. Some things we hold on to are worthy of the trash. But what Paul will say is worthy of grasping on to tightly. We work and struggle because we hope in God. Our lives are based on this hope in the Lord. We are saved by this hope. If there is no hope, we might as well do something else. But hope in God is worthy of our hard work and struggle. Paul risked his life because of his hope in the living God. Hope will come with a struggle. But our hope is in God so our struggle will not last forever. Timothy is told to command and teach this doctrine. It is essential to who we are as believers.
2. (4:12) Timothy's Youth : Paul tells Timothy to let no one look down on his youth. In other words, do not make youthful mistakes that allow people to dismiss him as a leader. Be more mature than your age, in other words.
3. (4:13) Worship Practices: Paul instructs Timothy to make sure there is reading of Scripture, exhortation of the saints, and teaching. The public reading of Scripture was a feature of Jewish worship practices passed on to the church. Also, part of worship was exhortation or encouragement to practice the Word. Also, there was to be in-depth teaching of the Scripture.
4. (4:14-16) Timothy's Calling: Paul reminds Timothy to continue to be reminded of the heavenly calling he has received. This is not just an earthly action but Timothy was chosen by God to do the work. Other elders laid hands on Timothy and prophesied over him. There is no one in ministry whom God uses who does not at least have someone else bear witness to the calling God has placed on his or her life. God never leaves himself without a witness. Paul also commands Timothy to stay alert to his own personal ministerial habits. People need to see your growth. It is absolutely fundamental. Paul says, watch yourself, in what you teach and preach. If he follows Paul's example, he will save himself and those who follow him. In other words, Timothy must be vigilant in order help those who are under his watch otherwise he can hurt himself and others.