

CALVARY CHAPEL SOUTH LONDON

COMMUNITY GROUPS

BUILDING UP ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE

Sunday 14th October

GOD'S HEALTHY HOUSEHOLD | Good servants exercise godliness

1 Timothy 4:6-10

Introduction

The Apostle Paul wants to encourage his understudy Timothy to continue to be a good servant of Jesus Christ by ensuring that he holds fast to the truths of the faith. Timothy is to work hard at maintaining a personal life of loving devotion to Jesus and His word in order that there would be consistency in his public ministry. In stark contrast to the false teachers Timothy is to exercise godliness and set an example for all leaders in the church and all who desire to be good servants.

1. Good servants nourish themselves and others on God's word (read v.6) 15 mins

⁶ If you point **these things** out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a **good minister** of Christ Jesus, **nourished** on the **truths of the faith** and of the **good teaching** that you have followed.

- What are '**these things**' that Paul is encouraging Timothy to point out?
- What will be the result of Timothy pointing out '**these things**' and why is it important?
- Discuss what Timothy is to do with the 'Truths of the faith' and the 'good teaching'?
- What might be the consequences for **not** doing these things? Give examples based on experiences.

2. Good servants exercise godliness (v.7-9) 15 mins

⁷ Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. ⁸ For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. ⁹ This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance.

The need to be 'godly' or for 'godliness' speaks of having a reverence for God and is mentioned by Paul over and over again in the Pastoral epistles. Paul uses an athletic metaphor by using the word 'Gymnazo' translated 'train', this would have conjured up the picture of a greek athlete engaging in rigorous training for the 'games'.

- What is the contrast that Paul is drawing in verse 7 and why might that be?
- Paul also contrasts physical training and spiritual training, what point is he making?
- What is your own personal attitude & practice towards both physical training(temporal) and training for godliness (eternal) and what practical changes might you need to make?
- When you consider your expectations of a Pastor are they in line with what the bible teaches here?

3. Good servants invest in eternity (v.10) 15 mins

¹⁰ For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe

Paul reminds Timothy that the hard work of investing in faithful gospel ministry is worth it because of the eternal prize which is the salvation of souls.

- Read **Col 1:28-29** and discuss the similarities with **v.10**
- Some would say that this verse teaches 'Universalism' (that God saves everyone) what does **1Thess 1:8-9** have to say about this?
- Read Heb 6:19 and consider what it means to 'put your hope in the living God' and why you think Paul mentions it in v.10

Summary

Gospel living and ministry that is faithful to Jesus involves heart felt commitment and hard work and must be motivated by a love for God and dependence on Him. Pastors are to set an example of godliness to the rest of the church teaching them what faithful gospel ministry looks like.

Prayer (15 mins)

Thank God for our godly leaders & pray for continued faithfulness to His word.
Consider your commitment to godliness and ask for specific prayer regarding this.

Pray for God to help you to stay close to Him and to help you read the Bible prayerfully every day.