

1 Timothy 4:9-16 Godliness & Hope in the Living God.

v9-10a: I believe that the trustworthy saying Paul is referring to is v8 to 10a. The phrase would read: "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. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance (and for this we labor and strive)." 1 Timothy 1:8-10a

In other words, **Paul is reminding Timothy to labor and strive towards godliness** as Ben reminded us last week. Our spiritual training is far more important than physical training. When we have godliness, we can handle any situation in life. Physical training is hard work and training for godliness is the same.

The word strive is from the verb ἀγωνίζομαι, according to Strong's concordance, it has the feeling of a struggle:

'figuratively to contend, struggle, with difficulties and dangers'. Strong's

In other words, godliness is hard work and a struggle! It is something that we need to wrestle with and discipline ourselves in. Training to be godly is difficult because the enemy of souls wants you to be spiritually weak not spiritually strong. However, it is worth the struggle because it can help you now in this life and the life to come.

"No one who really wants to count for God can afford to play at Christianity. He must make it the one great business of his life." Ironside, *Timothy, Titus and Philemon*

- What are you laboring and striving after?
- Are you striving to be more godly?
- What element of your spiritual life (godliness) do you struggle with?
- Holy Spirit please help me with (bible reading, worship, fellowship, prayer, boldness) John 14:26

v10b: I want to encourage you brothers and sisters to keep going in the struggle, don't give up on your spiritual life, keep striving towards godliness because Jesus is victorious and is right beside you, 'because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.' As believers our hope is in Jesus Christ the living God (1 Timothy 3:15).

"Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades." Revelation 1:17,18

Jesus is alive today, Jesus is real today, Jesus loves you today and if you are a believer, Jesus is your hope today! Jesus is the living God and as believers, we should live with that hope. Jesus is your source of joy; he is your source of strength and your source of peace. If you trust in Jesus this morning, He is your Savior, which means that you are forgiven of your sins, ransomed, redeemed, set free and have eternal life with him.

Jesus is the Savior of all people:

"He (Jesus) is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2:2

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son." John 3:16-18

- Have you put your hope in the living God this morning?

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26

When you believe and hope in the living God, you are no longer condemned to being separated from Jesus in hell. You will live with him eternally in heaven.

v11 & 13: Paul is commanding Timothy to teach about the hope of Jesus Christ and godliness to the church in Ephesus. Timothy is to preach with authority and not be scared to preach God's word in truth.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
2 Timothy 3:16, 17

There are three things in v13 that Timothy is required to do with regards to the ministry of the word of God: 1) ἀναγνώσει (anagnōsei) - the public reading of scripture, 2) παρακλήσει (paraklēsei) - exhortation of scripture and 3) διδασκαλία (didaskalia) - teach the scriptures. At E-Free, we do these three things every week to the best of our capabilities. We read the word of God publicly, exhort the scriptures (encourage the congregation from the word of God), and teach the scriptures faithfully.

v14: Paul is reminding Timothy of his gift of leadership and this would be an encouragement to him. At some point in his Christian walk, elders recognized Timothy as a leader but we are not told what the specific gifting was. They prayed for him as he was going out on mission. This is a regular practice for us as elders at E-Free, where we recognize gifting, lay hands on people, pray for them and send them out on mission. This practice has been carried on throughout church history (c.f. Acts 13:1, 2).

v15: These 'matters', would include striving after godliness (v8,9), leadership and teaching (v10), the ministry of the word (v11,13), demonstrating a life of good speech, Christian living, love, faith and purity (v12).

'be diligent' μελέτα (meleta) 'to improve by care or study, practice, cultivate, take pains with' *BDAG*

v12: Young Christian men are to be godly examples in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

Speech - "Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving." Ephesians 5:4

Life - "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ".
Philippians 1:27

Love - "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." 1 John 4:11

Faith - "No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light." Luke 8:16

Purity - Example of Bill and Blake from seminary.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:1,2

There is hope in the living God. As Jesus has been victorious, you can be as well.

"But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness,

so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness." Romans 6:17-19

Be a slave to righteousness instead of a slave to sin (your flesh).

"Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore, I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave."

1 Corinthians 9:25-27

Be the master of your body, not mastered by sexual immorality. You can have the victory in this area because of your faith in the living God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is hope for you.

v16 "Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."

Application

- Strive after godliness. Make it your life goal to be more Christ like.
- Put your hope in the living God on a daily basis.
- As Christians, be examples in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.
- Young men seek help in the area of purity. Don't put it off!