

A MINISTER'S JOB DESCRIPTION (Pt. 2)
(1 Timothy 4:12-16)

I. Be engaged (vs. 14).

- A. Timothy was given a spiritual gift by Paul's hands according to 2 Timothy 1:6.
 - 1. The word used in 2 Timothy 1:6 is the same word Paul used to describe the miraculous gifts of 2 Corinthians 12.
 - 2. The word "gift" in both instances, though slightly differing from one another, indicate they were given by the grace of God, because both words derive from the Greek word for grace.
 - 3. Those that received spiritual gifts did so by the grace of God.
- B. Since it was God's grace that allowed Timothy a spiritual, miraculous gift, he was not to be careless or negligent in its use.
- C. Rather, Timothy was to be engaged in the work of a minister and use the gift he was given by Paul's hands and which had been prophesied about at some unmentioned time.
 - 1. This gift was received at some point in time when an eldership, probably the one in his home congregation, was there to lay their hands on him.
 - 2. The laying on of the hands of the elders was a sign of their approval of Timothy and their belief, based on prophecy as mentioned, that he would work well in the Lord's kingdom.
- D. 1 Corinthians 13:8-13 and Ephesians 4:11-16 both show that these gifts were only until the time the church matured and the Bible was completed.
 - 1. After this time, these gifts ceased.
 - 2. In other words, ministers or anyone else today do not have the gift here mentioned or mentioned elsewhere in scripture.
- E. Ministers, and Christians alike, have a duty to be engaged in the work of the Lord and use the abilities God had given them to His glory.
 - 1. As much as preachers need to study, they can't hide in their studies.
 - 2. As much as Christians need to be studying, they can't hide in their houses.
 - 3. We must be engaged in the work of the Lord.
- F. Timothy had the work of strengthening the members of the church in Ephesus.
 - 1. He had to get out amongst them to do that.
 - 2. Preachers have the charge to teach and preach to the lost as well as the saved.
 - 3. Christians have the charge to teach and preach to the lost and the erring.
 - 4. We can't do that in our studies only, our houses only or our church buildings only.
- G. We can't use our abilities if we neglect them by not being engaged in the work of the Lord.

II. **Be earnest (vs. 15).**

- A. Paul told Timothy that as a minister, he was to give himself wholly or completely to the things already mentioned.
 - 1. Timothy was not to be half-hearted in his efforts as a minister.
 - 2. He was not to be half-hearted in his work of being an example of and to believers.
 - 3. He was to immerse himself in Christianity and in being a Christian.
- B. Gospel preachers have long gotten the advice that if you can do something besides preach, you should do it.
 - 1. The original maker of this statement, and those since, were not trying to discourage men from preaching.
 - 2. What was being done was an effort to get men to preach who want to preach because of the importance of it.
- C. I believe this statement has its roots in this verse of scripture.
 - 1. One who is drawn to other endeavors will not be earnest in his efforts to be a minister.
 - 2. He will give efforts to be prepared maybe, but there will not be an immersion of self in the work.
- D. When one does immerse himself in the work, the gains in knowledge will appear to all.
- E. The same adage holds true for Christians.
- F. A humorist wrote of hearing a preacher mention that Christians couldn't impress God with their works or earn their salvation.
 - 1. This man looked around at people in the pews sleeping, passing notes, not paying attention, etc.
 - 2. He then thought to himself, "Who's trying?"
- G. We need Christians in the pews to immerse themselves in what it means to be a Christian.
 - 1. We need people giving earnest efforts to be examples and to lead others to Christ.
 - 2. Luke-warm Christians make God mad.

III. **Be enduring (vs. 16).**

- A. Paul closed this section by telling Timothy to pay attention to himself, his life, and what he taught.
 - 1. He was not to leave the truth.
 - 2. He was not to change who he was.
- B. Paul then told Timothy to endure in what he was and what he taught.
- C. The reason for such was very simple: he would be saved and he would save others as well.
 - 1. When one is a preacher of the gospel, he should never change who he is or what he teaches.
 - 2. His soul and the souls of them that hear him preach hang in the balance.
- D. Preachers have an awesome responsibility.
 - 1. They stand before people and proclaim a soul-saving message.
 - 2. It is a message that cannot be changed or altered and be pleasing

to God.

- E. There are many that take shots at preachers and act as if they know how it ought to be done but would never preach a sermon or even teach a class.
- F. True gospel preacher should be encouraged.
- G. Christians need to be enduring as well.
 - 1. If one is a true Christian, he or she should never change.
 - 2. If one is following the doctrine of Christ, he or she should never change what is being followed.
- H. We need preachers and Christians who endure and who continually stand for what is right and who can be counted on to do what is right.