

# A Good Minister - Part 1

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Sermon Audio file

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1 Timothy 4:6-10

Introduction:

I love the Olympics!

These athletes inspire the world through their dedication, through their extreme focus, through their long-term effort.

Many of these athletes train for literally years for the chance to be on this global stage competing against the world's best counterparts.

These athletes train for the possibility of someone declaring them to be good.

A good swimmer, a good runner, a good shooter, a good wrestler, etc.

Our passage today, gives us the training program for becoming a good minister, a good servant of Jesus Christ.

Remind God's people of truth & falsehood. (6a)

"to suggest"

"to place under like stepping stones"

"This does not mean compromising. But it does mean a calm & logical explanation of biblical teaching." Kent

"positive answers to negative doctrines" Guthrie

A good minister may sound like a broken record sometimes, but that is for the good of God's people.

Be constantly nourished by God's Word. (6b)

"to feed" "to fatten"

Present participle = continuous process

Keep on getting nourishment

"attained" = pursuit of some kind; investigate; follow as a standard

"Only be reading the Word, studying it, meditating on it, and mastering its contents can a pastor (minister) fulfill his mandate." MacArthur

A good minister must be getting consistent nourishment from God's Word in order to be able to minister effectively.

- Eating PB&J sandwiches after working out.

Stay away from worthless tales. (7a)

“Reject”

“profane” = worthless

“fables” = mythos

These myths had no spiritual value & are of the type that senile women tell to children for entertainment.” Kent

Examples of “Old Wives’ Tales”

A good minister must avoid worthless tales and pursue truth.

2 Corinthians 10:5 – Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Seek God above everything else. (7b-10)

“exercise” = keep on exercising

Discipline or training

Emphasis on physical fitness in Ephesus

“Grand Theater of Ephesus” seated 25,000 and was used for like the gladiator games.

Gymnaze from gumnos (naked) = removing clothing in order to exercise

Hebrews 12:1 – Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset [us], and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Physical training has limited value

Limited in extent

Limited in duration

Spiritual training has unlimited value

Unlimited in extent – “unto all things”

Unlimited in duration – “life that now is, and that which is to come”

“The physical ends at the end of this life, but godliness is carried over into the next.” McGee

“Faithful saying” – something you can count on

What is godliness?

Euseb`eia – Basically godliness is piety or devotion.

“[Godliness] is a God-honoring manner of life, issuing from a true knowledge of God and His grace in Jesus Christ.” NBD

Godliness is having a high view of God – a proper view of God, and in turn, having an accurate view of yourself, then living in light of those perspectives.

Godliness doesn't come from WHAT you know but from WHO you know.

Isaiah 6:1-5, 8

To know God is to fear God

To fear God is to worship God

To worship God is to love God

To love God is to obey God

To obey God is to emulate Christ

To emulate Christ is to die to self and live for God

Relentlessly pursuing God is of such high value, that's why we "labor and strive"

Ultimately it's trust – I trust Him because I know Him.

The reason I may struggle with devotion to God is that I don't know Him. The extent to which I know God will dictate the extent to which I am devoted to Him.

A good minister must relentlessly, passionately pursue God Himself.

Conclusion:

Are you devoted to God?

Are you godly?

Focus on knowing Him and our lives will change.

Paul is urging Timothy & the folks at Ephesus to train, to discipline themselves for the purpose of knowing God.

Most of the time I am content with looking like I know God instead of relentlessly pursuing God.

John 17:3 – And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.