

Study Guide for July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Priorities for Personal Ministry: I Timothy 4:11 – 5:2

Introduction: Think about someone who has served effectively within the church. What in your mind made that person's service fruitful? What have you learned about service?

Timothy, Paul's delegate, has been assigned to Ephesus to set the church in order. What obstacles must Timothy overcome? What can we glean from Paul's exhortation to him?

I. Influence comes from a godly example: I Tim. 4:11-12.

- A. What criticisms were probably leveled at Timothy?
- B. How does Paul instruct Timothy to respond?
- C. What would it look like for a spiritual leader to set an example in . . .
  - 1) ... speech:      2) ... life:      3) ... love:      4) ... faith:      5) ... purity:
- D. Whose example has influenced you? Describe one aspect from C was seen.

II. The Scriptures must be known and understood to provide guidance: I Tim. 4:13.

- A. What activities related to the Word does Paul commend Timothy to engage in?
- B. Read Nehemiah 8. How does this illustrate Paul's charge to Timothy?
- C. What has most helped you read, learn, and apply the Scriptures to your life?

III. A Spiritual gift is a divine enablement, but it must be developed: I Tim. 4:14.

- A. How did Timothy acquire his **gift**? What was in danger of happening to his **gift**?
- B. How has God gifted you for service? When have you neglected or used it?

IV. Others will recognize and benefit from your spiritual devotion: I Tim. 4:15-16.

- A. What will be the result of diligent pursuit of a life of godly service?
- B. In what sense could Paul say, "You will save both yourself and your hearers?"

V. Treat people in the church as FAMILY: I Tim. 5:1-2.

How is Timothy to treat different groups in the church? How are we to treat them?