

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO TIMOTHY

I TIMOTHY 4:1-16

WEEK OF MARCH 30–April 3

QUALITIES OF THE EXCELLENT SERVANT OF CHRIST

Paul concludes his instruction for the character qualities of the overseers and deacons in chapter 3 with the glorious doxology in verse 16. Paul quickly brings us back to the reality of life here on earth in chapter 4 verses one through 5 by providing a warning of deceptive instruction generated by deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons. He continues in chapter 4:6-16 to provide Timothy with the encouragement and instruction of the efforts and qualities of a good servant or minister of Christ Jesus. In chapter 3, Paul focused on the character of the leaders of the church. In chapter 4 the focus is upon the standards of excellence relating to the work of the ministry of the servant of Christ. Paul focuses on the commitment, devotion, and conduct of the ministry of an excellent servant of Christ.

Paul is directing his comments in **first Timothy chapter 4** to his protégé, Timothy, a young pastor serving in Ephesus. However, these qualities apply to all believers. Each one of us should be challenged by the standard to which Paul calls Timothy in serving in the body of Christ.

Read I Timothy 4:1-5 Danger of Apostasy

1. From **verse 1**, what does Paul say is inevitable in the church?
2. From **verses 2-3(a)** what was the content of the false teaching?
3. How is that false teaching refuted in **verses 3-5**?

Read 1 Timothy 4:6-16 Qualities of the Excellent Servant

In **verses 6-16** Paul provides several characteristics of the excellent minister or excellent servant of Christ. This instruction addressed to Timothy, applies to all who call themselves servants of Christ.

4. To what is Paul referring with regard to "*pointing out these things to the brethren*" in **verse 6**?
5. What does Paul say should be characteristic of the good servant of Christ in **verse 6(b)**?
6. From **2 Timothy 2:15**, **Colossians 3:16** and **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, how can you be constantly nourished on the words of faith and sound doctrine? How much time do you invest daily to be constantly nourished?

This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it, for then you will make your way prosperous and then you will have success. Joshua 1:8

7. What does Paul tell Timothy to avoid in **verse 7(a)**? What can that activity lead to as described in **2 Timothy 2:16-17**?
8. By contrast to the activity described in question 7, from **verses 7(b)-9**, what should characterize the life of the good minister of Christ?
9. Godliness is having a proper attitude and conduct before God in everything. Read **1 Corinthians 9:27**. How does Paul express the importance of discipline in ministry and how does the believer do this?
10. What specific steps or actions are you taking to be disciplined for the purpose of godliness?
11. How does Paul describe the effort to accomplish godliness in **verse 10**?
12. **What** standards of excellence does Paul teach are expected of the servant or minister of Christ in the following verses:
- **Verse 11**
 - **Verse 12**
 - **Verse 13**
 - **Verse 14**
 - **Verse 15**
 - **Verse 16**
13. How are you investing your time and energy to grow in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity to become an example to those around you (See **verse 12**)? What do you do daily to grow in those areas?
14. As you consider Paul's instruction to Timothy in **verses 6-16**, what steps will you take to grow in godliness that your progress will be evident to all (**vs. 15**)?

“Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. Now, for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:3-8