### Lesson 22

### The Good Doctrine of Faithful Minister

### 1 Timothy 4

### Day 1: Avoiding Apostasy (vs. 1-5)

1. What biblical principle from last week’s lesson or lecture encouraged or challenged you to live differently?
2. According to 1 Timothy 4:1–5, what characterizes the lives of those who fall away from the faith?
3. Using a dictionary or other Bible translations, define the word “apostasy.”
4. List additional evidences of apostasy found in Matthew 24:4–12, Acts 20:29–30, 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4, and 2 Peter 3:3–4.
5. Using a dictionary, define the word “asceticism.”   
     
     
     
     
     
     
   1. In verse 3, what two forms of asceticism are mentioned?
   2. How is this similar to the demand of the Jews in Acts 15:1?
   3. What does Colossians 2:20–23 say about the practice of asceticism?
6. From the 1 Timothy text, what is the Christian’s proper response to asceticism? Why?

### Day 2: Disciplines of Faithful Ministers (vs. 6-8)

1. In verse 6, what two elements will continually nourish the servant of Christ?  
     
     
     
     
     
     
   1. How is Paul’s use of the word “nourished” helpful for believers today?
2. In verse 7, to what does Paul contrast “worldly fables fit only for old women”?
3. What other disciplines are profitable for the Christian and why? See also Matthew 6:31–33, 19:28–29, and Philippians 4:6–7.
4. In 1 Timothy 4:7, the word “discipline” in the Greek carries the idea of athletic training. Identify some principles of athletic training that can be applied to the discipline of pursuing godliness.
5. What specific areas in your Christian walk need to change so that you do not run in vain?

### Day 3: The Labor and Striving of Faithful Ministers (vs. 9-11)

1. What do you think is the “trustworthy statement” that Paul writes of in verses 9–10?
2. Using a dictionary, define the following words:
   1. Labor
   2. Strive
   3. Fixed
3. How do Titus 1:1–2, Titus 3:7, and 2 Corinthians 1:10 expand your understanding of the believer’s fixed hope?
4. Using a dictionary, write the meaning of “prescribe.”   
     
     
     
     
     
     
   1. How can you better accomplish prescribing and teaching the concepts found in vs. 6-11 in your own life this week?

### Day 4: The Conduct of Faithful Ministers (vs. 12-13)

1. According to verse 12a, what was Paul’s challenge to Timothy? Why do you think this was necessary?
2. In verse 12b, in what specific areas does Paul direct Timothy to excel?   
     
     
     
     
     
     
   1. How would Timothy’s proper conduct in these areas combat others’ criticism of his youthfulness?
   2. How would you assess your own faithfulness in these areas, and where do you need to grow?
3. From verse 13, on what other activities does Paul challenge Timothy to focus?   
     
     
     
     
     
     
   1. How are these responsibilities distinct from each other?
4. How do Nehemiah 8:1–8 and Titus 1 expand your understanding of Timothy’s pastoral responsibilities?

### Day 5: The Faithful Calling of Faithful Ministers (vs. 14-16)

1. In verse 14, describe the process by which Timothy became a pastor. Why this is significant?
2. How does Paul’s use of the words “take pains” and “absorbed” in verse 15 emphasize the meaning of the verse?
3. What are “these things” Paul is calling attention to in verse 16? (Refer back to verses 6–15)
4. In what way would Timothy’s close attention to himself and his teaching help believers understand the security of their salvation?
5. **Dig Deeper**: Cite Scripture to prove that salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ alone rather than by works.
6. What have you learned from this chapter that you can apply to your walk with God?

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