

## GIVEN TO READING

### TEXT: 1 Timothy 4:11-16

URGE YOU TO TAKE OUT YOUR BIBLE AND TURN OUR TEXT **1 TIMOTHY 4:11-16**

**1 Timothy 4:13** Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

WHY THIS SUBJECT?

Seems to be a lack of reading the bible.... Because many don't seem to know what it says or teaches on many subjects. Instead it seems more time is spent reading other things; such as, one of the popular writers like: Joel Osteen or Hal Lindsey or Max Lucado.

Is this what Christians are to be reading? So What is this passage talking about?

LET'S TAKE A DEEPER LOOK AT THIS PASSAGE

1 Timothy **4:11-16** (Apostle Paul writing to instruct Timothy)

**11** These things command and teach.

**12** ... but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

**13** ... give attention to reading (scripture), to exhortation (urging to do), to doctrine (that which is taught).

Some Versions say give attention to 'public' reading BUT that word 'public' is not inherit in the definition Of the word 'Reading' NOR does context demand it.

Why is that important?

Because these versions of the bible may MISLEAD you to Think it only needs to be done at worship

**15 Meditate on these things**; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

**16** Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

**Paul is writing Timothy to command & teach these things - vs.13**

1. Given to Read
2. Urge People to action
3. Learn What God teaches

**15 Meditate on these things**; give yourself entirely to them

WHAT IS TIMOTHY SUPPOSED DO ABOUT THESE THINGS?

1. Meditate – to continual think about these things
2. Be entirely given (Committed) to do these things

**15** ...that your progress may be evident to all.

**16** Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

WHY IS HE SUPPOSED TO DO THIS?

1. So that everyone would be aware of the progress he is making - **vs. 15**
2. It will **SAVE** both Timothy AND THOSE THAT HEAR HIM - **vs. 16**

ARE THINGS IN VS. 15 & 16 JUST FOR TIMOTHY? NO, HOW DO WE KNOW THAT **VS.11 & 12**

IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT...

## **2 Timothy 2:2**

2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit** these to faithful men (Human Beings) who will be able to teach others also.

## **2 Timothy 2:15**

15 Be diligent (KJV says study) to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing (ASV says Handling) the word of truth.

## **THINGS HE IS SUPPOSE TO TEACH EVERYONE TO KNOW & DO**

## **NOW LET'S FOCUS ON OUR SUBJECT MORE SPECIFICALLY**

1 Timothy 4:13 ... give attention to reading...

In order for Timothy or anyone to read scripture well & TEACH OTHERS they need to be familiar with what they are reading.

HOWEVER, SOME TELL ME DON'T LIKE TO READ OR HAVE HARD TIME GETTING INTO IT  
– AT TIMES I'VE HAD THE SAME PROBLEM

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

I WAS APPROACHING & THINKING ABOUT IT WRONG

BECAUSE IT IS IMPORTANT, INTERESTING & EXCITING. ...**YOU CAN MAKE IT SO BY REALIZING AND DOING CERTAIN THINGS**

## **VALUE OF READING**

Salvation – Eternal Life

### **John 6:68**

68 Simon Peter (says to Jesus)... **You have the words of eternal life.**

**John 5:39** (Jesus speaking to the Jews) You search the Scriptures, for **in them** you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

**Matthew 1:21** And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for **He will save His people from their sins."**

**Tells you how to be saved**

### **Warns Us to Be Careful What We Believe**

1 **John 4:1** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets (teachers) have gone out into the world.

6 We (Apostles) are of God. He who knows God hears us (the apostles); he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

**If what you believe is different than what is written in the bible then you don't know God.**

**We need to compare what we believe with what bible says. Why?**

**Many teachers do not teach the truth**

AND BECAUSE WHAT JOHN 8:31-32 SAYS

### **John 8:31-32**

**31** Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide (Continue - **KJV**) in My word, you are My disciples indeed. **32** And you shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free** (from sin)."

### **Only a few will go to heaven – Matthew 7:13-14**

**13** "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

**14** Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

### **Luke 13:23-24**

**23** Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them,

**24** "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

### **1 Timothy 4:16**

**16** Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. **Continue in them**, for in doing this you **will save** both yourself **and those who hear you**.

AND BE LIKE TIMOTHY:

**1 Timothy 4:12** but **be an example** to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

HAVE TO CONTINUE IN THE TRUTH TO BE SAVED

## **CONTAINS PRECIOUS INFORMATION**

### **Given to Reading**

#### **EXPECTED TO UNDERSTAND**

### **Ephesians 3:3-5**

**3...** by revelation He (God) made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,

**4** by which, when you read, **you may understand** my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),

**5** which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

## **WE ARE EXPECTED TO UNDERSTAND WHEN READ**

1. Read with Understanding

### **2 Timothy 2:15**

**15 Study** to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. **KJV**

WHAT'S INVOLVED WITH STUDYING?

1. Reading

2. Taking notes

3. Being aware of the Context - Immediate & Extended

4. Think About – Meditation - **1 Timothy 4:15 15 Meditate on these things...**

5. Be Curious – ask questions - What is the purpose of the passage/book

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT?

**1 Timothy 4:15...give yourself entirely to them**

1. Make it a habit - Set aside time to read EVERY DAY
2. Pray about it - **1 John 5:14** Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

Don't think just because we pray for understanding you will understand without putting in the effort.

3. Make it interesting
  - A. Read different Variety of scripture Daily
  - B. USE Reference materials that support what you are studying - dictionary
  - C. Occasionally Read Out Loud
4. Involve Others
  - A. Discuss scripture with each other
5. Think about how important the topic is

## IF YOU AREN'T EXCITED/INTERESTED IN READING SCRIPTURE MAYBE THERE IS A PROBLEM

### APPROACH

Preparation

**2 Chronicles 12:14** (Rehoboam king of Judah)

**14** And he did evil, because **he did not prepare his heart** to seek the Lord.

### **Ezra 7:6 &10**

**6** this Ezra came up from Babylon; and he was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given.

**10** For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.

WHAT DID HE DO TO PREPARE? Committed to it – setting time aside, asked not to be interrupted, pray  
With idea to teach

WHAT MIGHT BE SOME OTHER PROBLEMS?

Issues/hindrances

1. Depression

**Proverbs 12:25**

**25** Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad.

SOLUTION: May be to learn to trust God -

- A. God's has lots of good news (how to be saved) &
- B. instructions (how to prevent problems and solve them)

C. Believing a Lie

1. ACCEPTING A FALSE DEFINITION OF A WORD

- a. GRACE – Means Favor – usually not unconditional favor but in context usually means undeserved favor....ex. **Eph 2:8**

**8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

**9** not of works, lest anyone should boast. **10** For we are His workmanship, **created** in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that **we should walk in them**.

### **When Saved**

C. JOY & PEACE

1. Where is there greater JOY & PEACE than believing you are saved & RT w God?
2. God gives you an assurance of this when you know his word

2. Distracted with pleasure or addictions
  - A. Focusing/Priority issues
  - B. NOT READING ENOUGH OF THE BIBLE or Often Enough to Understand
    1. ex. Read Bible in a year – Starving self  
**Its critically important book why only read whole book only once a year?**
3. Balance in our life
 

ex. Enough exercise - Ex. College all day – go home try to study

**1 Timothy 4:8**

8 For bodily exercise profits a little, ...

**Ecclesiastes 12:12**

12 And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh.

4. VERSION OF THE BIBLE

- A. Translation, Thought for Thought or Paraphrase of the Bible
  1. Translation uses original meanings of the word
  2. Thought for Thought /Paraphrase uses different words than the original

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Because a paraphrase/ THOUGHT FOR THOUGHT – its really a commentary of what man thinks ...it just the Opinion of Men

Often times it is wrong or inaccurate AND IS NOT A VERSION OF THE BIBLE EVEN THOUGH THEY SELL AS ONE.

SOME MODERN VERSIONS ARE THESE TYPE

LET'S LOOK AT AN EXAMPLE

**NKJV vs. NIV - ex. Ephesians 2:3**

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, **fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind**, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. **NKJV**

**VS.**

3 All of us also lived among them at one time, **gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature** and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. **NIV**

**EPHESIANS 2:1-3**

1. Context is practicing of sin becomes ones nature
2. Def. of word Greek for "Nature" means something that has become that way by a long HABIT
3. Makes You think we were born inherently evil.

**A GOOD TRANSLATION IS IMPORTANT – ASV, KJV or NKJV**

## 5. MINDSET

**1 Corinthians 1:18-21** (CONTRAST BETW WISDOM OF GOD & THE WORLD)

**18** For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us (Christians) who are being saved it is the power of God.

**20** ... Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

**21** For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

MESSAGE OF THE CROSS IS FOOLISH TO THE WORLD

DO WE EXPLAIN AWAY SCRIPTURE USING WORLDLY WISDOM?

Ex. Baptism – Mark 16:16 Believe and be baptized to be saved – Some explain this away and say only have to believe only to be saved

FINALLY

**2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...

BIBLE IS GOD'S COMMUNICATION TO MAN – ARE WE RECEIVING IT AS GOD INTENDED?