

1 Tim 4 M.E.A.T Notes/Questions:

MEAT of the gospel: Motivation, Examination, Application, and Takeaway

1. What did the Spirit expressly say to Paul about the end times?
2. What are the two reasons we labor and suffer reproach?
3. What are the 6 things we are to be examples to believers in verse 12? What does each item mean?
4. What are Timothy's 3 primary duties as overseer of the church in Paul's stead?
5. What does Paul instruct Timothy to do with his gifting and doctrine?
6. What will be the expected end if Timothy takes heed to Paul's advice?

Motivation:

Examination:

Application:

Takeaways:

- “The Spirit expressly says”...
 - Paul received a revelation from the Spirit, which was not general, but very specific concerning the apostasy within the Church
 - They will “leave” the Faith
 - Word “leave” speaks of departure or revolt. Word “faith” speaks of the true understanding of Jesus as Messiah – that is saving belief. The interpretation of this depends on your view of Salvation. But, in all respects, “some” quit following Jesus and turn to following other things.
 - Give heed to deceiving spirits and teaching of demons – occult practices
 - Among these a command to celibacy and religious prohibition from foods
 - These were acts that were adopted by Gnosticism, which Paul and Timothy were combating in Ephesus. The similarity to the Catholic Church can’t help but be noticed here also.
 - No creature refused...
 - Sanctified by the word of God and prayer
 - This is not a blanket allowance to eat anything, but rather recognition that believers are to enjoy the things created by God when aligned with the proper purposes of God.
 - Use sex as an example.
- Good doctrine
 - Reject profane and old wives’ fables
 - Foundation of healthy ministry and correct practice
- We labor and suffer reproach
 - Because we trust God
 - Examples to those being Saved
- Youth – term used for men <40 years old
- Witness is not respective of age
 - Be an example to believers in:
 - Word – what you say
 - Conduct – what you do
 - Love – how you feel towards others (love of God)
 - Spirit – how you relate to God (attitude and power)
 - Faith – how you think (trust God)
 - Purity – how you guard yourself (sexually and in thought)
- Timothy’s primary duties – [equip the saints]
 - Reading – studying the scriptures to learn more about God (also a command to read publicly)
 - Exhortation – challenging and uplifting the brethren (to obey the scriptures)
 - Doctrine – teaching the truth of the Faith (formally)
- Timothy’s gift was given by the laying on of hands by the elders (
 - Not that he received them by the laying on of hand, but that the elders recognized the gift of God in him
 - Think Ordination
 - Meditate on these things
 - Give yourself entirely to them

- Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine
 - Save yourself – Sanctification, not Justification
 - Save those who hear you – opportunity, not trans-substitution

Pastor's MEAT:

Motivation: A warning to Timothy (and to us) that there is and will even more so in the coming days be apostasy in the Church. This will be led by demons, who deceive and convince “believers”.

Examination: Can I recognize the difference between sound doctrine and apostasy? Do I live my life as an example to believers? Do I focus on my primary duties? Have I given myself over to my gifts and the doctrine?

Application: I have learned to recognize areas where doctrine is questionable. There are still areas where I'm not convinced as to the full truth of things. These are primarily secondary or tertiary issues but require answering ultimately – none the less. I try to live my life as an example, yet I find I don't always do it with the Joy that should be within me. This means I'm trying to do it in my own strength instead of full surrender. I am often distracted from my primary duties. I allow immediate things to become primary things. In some ways I have given myself over, but not fully. I'm still holding back in some ways.

Takeaways: I need to dedicate more time to study of the Word and prayer.