

The Hope of Godliness
1 Timothy 4:6-10
Apr 18, 2021
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction
In this sermon we learn about the importance of godliness in the life and ministry of the church.

The Text: 1 Timothy 4:6-10
6 *If you put these things before the brothers [and sisters], you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained [or "nourished"] in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.* ***7*** *Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness;* ***8*** *for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.* ***9*** *The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance.* ***10*** *For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.*

1) The church should be filled with "serving" Christians nourished on truth and sound doctrine (v. 6).

> *<u>Eph 4:11-12</u>:* [11] *And he gave … shepherds and teachers,* [12] *to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ….*

2) The church should train its congregants for godliness, which has present and eternal value (vv. 7-8).

3) What motivates ministry and godliness is a supernatural hope anchored in God (vv. 9-10).

Response
Let us strive for godliness, for the glory of God and the good of the church!

Sunday Text Questions for 1 Timothy 4:6-10 ("Entrusted to You" Series)

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1) Starter Question: What motivates you to strive and succeed in your Christian life?

2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.

3) What is the apostle Paul in v. 6 exhorting pastor Timothy to "put … before the brothers and sisters?"

4) The word "servant" (ESV) in v. 6 more generally refers to any Christian who "serves" or "ministers" in their church, not just hired staff but also lay people. How is every Christian called to be "a good servant of Jesus Christ?" (note: see Ephesians 4:11-12).

5) How should Christians get "trained [nourished] in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine" (v. 6)?

6) Based upon v. 7, what are some silly conspiracy theories, polemical politics, urban legends and hear-say with which serious Christians should have nothing to do?

7) How does Paul's use of the metaphor of athletics and exercise in vv. 7-8 help explain the process by which a person trains for godliness?

8) What does it mean to "have our hope set on the living God" (v. 10)?

9) Godliness is a major theme in this passage. What is "godliness" and how does one train for it? (note: the passages for further study might help.)

10) Several times 1 Timothy teaches us to avoid silly myths and conspiracy theories. What might the apostle Paul say to American Evangelicals today in regard to the various political tangents and conspiracy theories that dominate their viewing, reading, social media feeds, and conversations in place of a focus on "good doctrine" and ministry?

Further study this week: Passages on godliness: Psalm 1 (Mon); 2 Peter 1:3-11 (Tues); Titus 2 (Wed); Colossians 3:1-17 (Thurs); Ephesians 4 (Fri).