

SERIES TITLE: CHURCH ON COURSE

PART EIGHT: MAKING PROGRESS

TEXT: 1 TIMOTHY 4:9-16

INTRODUCTION.

Timothy was a young pastor who was mentored by the apostle Paul. After Paul left Ephesus, he put Timothy in charge of organizing the churches. False teachers were endangering the mission. These teachers were speculating about obscure and less important matters, instead of preaching new life in Christ. In this letter, Paul encourages Timothy to deal with this situation and tells him how to move forward in ministry. Although addressed to one person, this letter was intended to benefit the whole church.

DISCUSSION.

Which of these pushes you to trust God more and why?

- a) 5.9 earthquake
- b) Hurricane or flash flooding
- c) Stock Market drops 500 points in a day
- d) someone you know gets sick

EXAMINATION.

vv.9-10 What does it mean to put our hope in the living God?

In what way is God the Savior of all people?

Why doesn't this mean that everyone is automatically saved? (check out what Jesus said in John 3:18, 36 and 5:24)

vv.11-12 Why is age a non-factor in being a strong influence for the gospel?

Regardless of age, what can every believer do?

vv.13-14 Is there enough public reading of Scripture or preaching/teaching in the life of the church? Why or why not?

vv.15-16 How can others see spiritual progress, and what does it look like?

How do you persevere in life and doctrine?

In what way are we “saved” by that perseverance?

APPLICATION.

- What God-given gifts do you have and how are you using them?
- Are you better at “life” or “doctrine” and how do you know?
- How can you make more progress in the year ahead?
- FACT: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- REACT: What did you feel?
- ACT: What are you going to do?