

Good Minister - Part 2 - Training in Godliness

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: 1 Timothy 4.

B. One must be fed before he can feed. A person must know Christ before He can make Him known.

C. Training oneself has to do with Christian discipline.

II. Reasons for training.

A. To be prepared for the battle so that when one's opportunity comes he is ready for it.

1. The great moments only come once in a while.
2. What one does in training can determine the outcome of these brief moments.
3. To play tough "Saturday" you have to play tough all week.

B. It is for endurance. (Jeremiah 12:5, 2 Samuel 22:3)

1. We need power not only to do but to last in the ministry.
2. Few Christians end well. If you are to end well, you must daily train yourself in godliness.

C. Because godliness develops the whole man.

1. Bodily training is valuable. The body, mind and spirit are all interrelated. If you want to start a habit, start vigorously and commit before a large amount of people.
2. But physical training is limited to the body and this life.
3. God is in the business of wanting a man whole and complete.
4. Godliness is the life of faith mortifying sin cultivating hope, love, generosity, etc. It is simply practicing obedience to God's commands.

III. Three suggestions for training in righteousness.

A. Train yourself.

1. This is taking the responsibility for oneself.

2. This means not blaming everyone else for the way one is.
3. People are ill because they act irresponsibly.
4. The Christian life is not a do it yourself kit. There are certain things that only God can do, but there are certain things that only you can do such as repenting or ceasing to lie. (Galatians 2:15, John 15)
5. We are all responsible for ourselves morally. (Romans 8:13)
6. We are not to shove the responsibility of our training on others.

B. Start with the little every day things.

1. He that is faithful in little will be faithful in much. (Luke 16:10)
2. Most of life is made up of the little things anyway - returning borrowed books, keeping a promise, etc.
3. We are to keep Christ at the center of all things.
4. Living the prepared life requires saying no to many things and yes to the Bible.
5. We are to pray.
6. We are to be obedient. (Psalm 78)
7. We are to witness by laying down our life for others.

Application questions

1. Why should the Christian train?

2. How should the Christian train?

3. What area could you use the most training in? What is your short term plan for accomplishing this?
