

A MINISTER'S JOB DESCRIPTION (Pt. 1)
(1 Timothy 4:12-16)

I. Be exemplary (vs. 12).

- A. Paul starts out by telling Timothy he needs to be an example to all those with whom he comes in contact.
 - 1. Timothy should not have done anything that would lead people to point out his youth.
 - 2. Young people have and always will do dumb things and they are chalked up to "youthful indiscretions."
 - 3. Timothy did not have that luxury as a minister in the Lord's church.
 - 4. Christian young people need to realize that as Christians, they are under a microscope to the world, whether they are preachers or not.
- B. Instead of opening himself to charges of being young and dumb, Timothy was to be an example of what a believer, or a Christian, is.
 - 1. A preacher should be an example to all those to whom he preaches.
 - 2. In that same vane, Christians are to be examples to all they are around because they preach a sermon every day with their lives, as does a preacher before the congregation.
- C. Preachers and Christians are to be examples "in word."
 - 1. The language one uses out of the pulpit.
 - 2. His everyday language is to be exemplary.
- D. We are to be examples in our every day lives, which is the meaning of the word "conversation."
- E. We are to be examples in the way we love others.
 - 1. Ministers preach about love and should live out the sermons they preach.
 - 2. Christians are to "love the brotherhood" and our neighbors.
- F. We are to be examples in spirit or our moral qualities and our passions.
 - 1. Ministers cannot give in to the immoral corruptness around us and we must govern our passions.
 - 2. This is also true for all Christians.
- G. We are to be examples in faith or trust in God.
- H. We are to be examples to all of lives lived in purity towards those of the opposite sex.
 - 1. This word is only used here and in 5:2 in the New Testament.
 - 2. Notice this explanation: It "denotes the chastity which shuts out whatever impurity of spirit or manner might be mixed up with a Christian benevolent task of comforting. When a male comforts a young women, he must be especially careful lest he mix his divine task with any impure thoughts.
 - 3. This is true for all Christians, but especially preachers.
 - 4. I have been told and follow this advice that I don't counsel females alone.

- I. These cover virtually every area of life and ministers and Christians are to be exemplary.
- II. **Be educated (vs. 13).**
 - A. Paul then encouraged Timothy to keep studying while waiting for Paul to come to him.
 - B. By be educated, I don't mean that a preacher, or a Christian for that matter, must have a bunch of letters behind his name.
 - C. Paul told Timothy to be educated in God's word.
 - 1. I don't know whether or not br. Nichols graduated high school but he was an educated man.
 - 2. This holds true for many gospel preachers and faithful Christians.
 - 3. They have been educated in the most important book, the Bible.
 - D. One can go to heaven not knowing what a hypotenuse triangle or isosceles triangle is or how to use proper English, but you can't go to heaven being biblically illiterate.
 - E. Paul told Timothy to give attention to reading, and that would mean, at least for Timothy, the Old Testament scrolls.
 - 1. These scrolls are that to which Timothy would have access.
 - 2. He needed to read these for a better understanding of how they pointed to Jesus and His kingdom.
 - 3. We are greatly blessed to have both Old and New Testaments.
 - 4. Though given a gift as we will read, Timothy was to still study God's revealed word.
 - 5. We don't have spiritual gifts like that today, which should impress upon us the need for great study.
 - 6. One of the things that has really hampered the efforts of the Lord's church is lack of study on the part of its preachers and members.
 - 7. We have preachers and many members who don't know the book like they should.
 - 8. Preachers especially, but all Christians in general, are to be students of God's word.
 - F. We show our education in God's word through the exhortation we give others.
 - 1. When we encourage others it ought to be through the use of scripture.
 - 2. There is much in scripture that is useful in encouraging others or exhorting others to faithfulness.
 - a. Preachers ought to be able to exhort people to faithfulness through the use of scripture.
 - b. Christians should be able to use scripture to encourage one another and others.
 - G. We need to be educated in what we say to others about what the Bible teaches.
 - 1. When we speak words to others, they know if we are educated or not.
 - 2. This holds true in preaching.

- a. When one gets in front of a group to preach God's word, it doesn't take much to know if the preacher is educated on his topic or not.
 - b. When speaking to others about spiritual matters, if a person is educated in scripture it is apparent and if he isn't it is as well.
3. It also holds true for a Christian having a biblical discussion with someone.
 - a. We need to be able to converse with people intelligently about scripture.
 - b. We show people how knowledgeable or ignorant we are about the Bible when we have biblical discussions.
 - c. The lack of knowledge by members of the Lord's church may be why we are having fewer conversions today.
4. The words we use, whether by a preacher or member, should be words that exhort others to faithfulness.