

APPLICATION

This section of First Timothy is particularly applicational. Consider reading and rereading this section multiple times this week and meditate on points and truths that stand out to you.

Make this list (or one like it) a list of goals for your growth in God.

GODLY DISCIPLINE TOP 10

10. Get a good night's sleep...regularly
9. Schedule time with God in the best part of your day
8. Build several deep encouraging/challenging relationships
7. Memorize Scripture intentionally and with a plan
6. Identify sinful behaviors in your life and their triggers
5. Develop a consistent prayer routine for yourself and others
4. Work to become comfortable in the Bible
3. Find ways to express your heart in worship of Christ
2. Find a place to serve, teach or mentor
1. Pray every day to fall more madly in love with Jesus

Other passages for meditation: **Hebrews 12; Colossians 2-3.**

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

Good Bible Study is step-by-step Bible Study, methodical Bible study. We have briefly discussed two of the four steps of Bible Study in our sermon series: Observation and Interpretation.

These steps are covered at length in an original guide written just for our church family. Part 1 of **How To Study The Bible** is available on our website and discusses these two steps.

Part 2 will be added this week as we continue our training in the final two steps: Correlation and Application. Begin now or keep plugging away. We hope you are enjoying hearing God's voice through His Word.

HOW TO
STUDY
THE BIBLE

Look for a brand-new resource online under the *Messages* tab. Easily download, print or reference part 1 of **How to Study the Bible**. It highlights and expands this important application.

FIRST TIMOTHY

4:6-16

JUNE 12, 2011

FIRST TIMOTHY 4:6-16

SUPERIOR TRAINING

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Do not falsely assume that this section (**chapter 4**) is only written to leaders or pastors. It has application for all parts of the body. **4:6**, the key verse for this section, speaks to all who desire to be *good servants*.

4:7—It would seem that part of the false teaching plaguing the Ephesian church is myths (see 1:4). These stories are deceptive and described as “godless” and “gullible.” Paul emphatically says *reject* these myths, a verb used throughout the Pastorals, **1 Tim 5:11; 2 Tim 2:23; Titus 3:10**.

Conversely, pursue godliness within a disciplined life. This word *discipline* or *exercise* means to train vigorously, like Rocky under Mickey. For more on this word see **Hebrews 5:14; 12:11**; and **2 Peter 2:14**.

4:8-10—Why is godly discipline crucial? These verses are the answer. Ultimately, we rigorously pursue discipline because we’ve set our hope on Christ. He holds our present and our eternity. Nothing is too much to give.

4:11—This simple repeated command reminds us of the over-arching force of the letter and the problem Timothy faced in Ephesus.

4:12—Even as a young leader (Timothy may have been in his twenties or early thirties), Timothy should lead in godly discipline, setting an example to the rest of the church family. This is good godly, biblical leadership.

NOTE: This verse is not simply a text about age discrimination. In context, the young Timothy is being challenged to lead in godly discipline and love.

4:12-16—These last five verses have direct application to Timothy himself. We can, however, extrapolate beautiful significance for us, now.

Notice, yet again, the emphasis on teaching, exhortation and Scripture. This is the answer to false teaching: Godly leaders equipped with Truth.

Perhaps Timothy’s spiritual gift was teaching and/or leadership. This seems to fit best with the context. Ultimately, we do not know for sure. Do you know what your spiritual gift(s) is/are? Every Christian has one. Are you experiencing the joy that comes with expression of these gifts?

Pay close attention to **4:15**. What is everyone supposed to observe?

What about **4:16**? What is Timothy’s central role?

A godly leader need not only be a gifted teacher. He/she must also have a character that reflects a disciplined pursuit of godliness.

For more background and helps on First Timothy, go to our site faithbibleonline.org under the *Messages* tab for the **First Timothy Tool Kit**. Open an easy PDF and you are on your way.

