



## leadership manual

**1 Timothy**



# Sermon Series Notes

## “Life & Doctrine” Part 3 (I Timothy 4)

Danny Hodges – NT3508

Intro: Our doctrine determines how we live, so it is imperative that we heed Paul’s words in verse 16. This has been our focus the last two weeks, and it is my intention to conclude our study of this text today. Read verse 7. This is our focus, how to train for godliness. Last week we talked briefly about what true godliness looks like, then we began our journey on how to get there.

### I. THE BIBLICAL PATH TO TRUE GODLINESS

#### A. Freedom From The Old Covenant

\* We will never connect with God or get closer to Him by 1. Self-effort (Eph.2:9) 2. Law/regulations connected to the Law. See Gal.3:6-13, 25; 5:1.

\* Rom.3:21; 4:1ff (Abraham and David); Isa.6:1-8, touched with the coals of the altar. What altar? Could not have been the altar of sacrifices under the Law, had to be the new covenant altar of Isa.53:6; Zech.3:1-9.

\* There are five biblical terms that describe our salvation. The first term that's used to summarize our salvation is the term justification. In justification, the sinner stands before God as the accused and is declared righteous (II Cor.5:21). The second term is redemption. In redemption, the sinner stands before God as a slave and is granted freedom by a ransom (Gal.4:7). The third term that summarizes our salvation is forgiveness. In forgiveness, the sinner stands before God as a debtor and the debt, having been paid, is forgotten (Col.2:13). Fourth is the term sonship, where the sinner stands before God as a stranger and is made a son (Rom.8:15). Think of it. We stood before God as the accused and He declared us righteous. We stood before God as a slave and He granted us freedom. We stood before God as a debtor and He cancelled our debt. We stood before God as an enemy and He made us a friend. We stood before God as a stranger and He called us a son. Fifth, reconciliation. In reconciliation the sinner stands before God as an enemy and becomes a friend. Peace with God is made (Rom.5:1).

\* Saved/made righteous by grace through faith, sanctified/made practically holy by grace through faith.

\* Striving **from** righteousness, not **for** righteousness

\* New covenant obedience is not to be blessed, but because I am blessed! If you love me, you will keep my commandments (not referring to the Law). Eph.1:3-8; I John 4:19.

## B. Cooperation With The Ministry Of The Spirit

\* Gal.3:14; II Cor.3:6; Rom.8:1-16; Gal.5:25; Eph.4:30; I Thess.5:19

\* When I get out of step with the Spirit, I am out of fellowship with the Lord. The results are a loss of peace (Col.3:15), loss of joy (Ps.51:12), stunted spiritual growth (Heb.5:11-14), and if I do not repent, discipline from the Lord (I Cor.11:30-32).

## C. Renewed (Daily) Through The Word

\* Give us this day our daily bread; Col.3:10; Heb.4:12; Rom.12:1-2.

\* The Word of God is essential to my continued transformation. The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to keep my heart right with God.

\* Note: New (and immature) believers need to be bottle fed (Heb.5:11-12; I Peter 2:2). In time we need to become self-feeders, moving on to meat/maturity.

\* Advice: read/listen to the Word more than you do books about the Word. Billy Graham's father-in-law, Nelson Bell, was a medical missionary. He ran a 400 bed hospital in China. Despite his busy schedule, Nelson Bell got up every morning at 4:30 and spent two to three hours in Bible reading. They said he was a walking Bible encyclopedia. But what people were more impressed with was the godly character of his life. Lt. General William K. Harrison was the most decorated soldier in the 30<sup>th</sup> infantry division in WWII. He received every decoration for valor except the Congressional Medal of Honor. Because of his character and calm self-control, President Eisenhower chose him to lead the long and tedious negotiations to end the war. He was a soldier's soldier who led a very busy life. he was also a Christian that manifested true godliness. When he was a twenty year old West Point cadet, he began reading the Old Testament through once per year and the New Testament four times every year. He did this until he was ninety years old, when his failing eyesight kept him from continuing. At age ninety he had read through the OT seventy times and the NT 280 times!

\* My advice: Read the NT more than the OT.

#### D. Transformed Progressively By The Spirit Of God

\* Heb.10:14; Phil.3:15-16; II Cor.3:17-18

\* Give people time to mature/exhort people who have had time to mature.

## II. SOME FINAL PRACTICAL POINTS

### A. Diligence Is Required

\* Progress depends on diligence/discipline; word for train in I Tim.4:7 is “gymnasia” (gym).

\* I Cor.9: 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

\* See “The Changed Life,” pp.7-8, 31-32.

### B. Perseverance Is Essential

### C. Having A Plan Is Necessary

1. Developing a routine (Spending Time With God/Enjoying God class).

- Diet, exercise must be routine if it is going to make any difference...

2. Things that need to be done daily:

- The Word (daily bread).

- Prayer (if my heart is out of tune, my prayer is hindered).

## CONCLUSION

\* Col.2:6-7