

Being a Minister for Christ

Lesson 3

2 Timothy 1-4

April 11, 2021

Instructions for a Full-Time Minister for Christ

Introduction

Elisabeth Elliot was a missionary. Her husband famously died while in South America to preach the gospel to tribes in Ecuador. Elisabeth chose to live among the very same people who had killed her husband and shared the love of Jesus with them for two years. She understood the meaning of loving those who persecuted her. God used this amazing woman to further His kingdom.

In his letter to Timothy, Paul equates the Christian to a soldier whose sole focus is to please his master, not getting caught up in civilian affairs—not getting distracted by the trappings of the world or hardships that might keep them from their mission. Elisabeth embodied these ideas. Was she perfect? Definitely not. She was a flawed human being who needed saving herself. But she had every excuse in the book to stay far away from this tribe, yet she trusted God more than her pursuits or grievances.

We may not have the same story as Elisabeth, but we have the same obligation to know what Scripture says and act on it. To have our sole focus be on God and all other distractions fall by the wayside. The Bible is the perfect tool to teach us about our Christian walk. It was inspired by God himself and can truly change the most wicked of hearts. We can learn from the examples provided in the Bible to serve God and His mission better.

Memory Verse: “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”—2 Timothy 3:16

Pray and read 2 Timothy 1-4. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. What is it that Paul wants Timothy to fan into flame?
(2 Timothy 1:6)
2. Of what pattern is Timothy to keep? (2 Timothy 1:13)
3. With whose help are we to guard the safe-deposit that was entrusted to us? (2 Timothy 1:14)
4. In what are we to remain strong? (2 Timothy 2:1)
5. As what was Timothy to present himself to God?
(2 Timothy 2:15)
6. From what must everyone who confesses the name of God turn away? (2 Timothy 2:19)
7. What are three of the adjectives of those in the last times? (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

8. What is Paul's final charge to Timothy? (2 Timothy 4:2)

What does the passage mean?

1. Paul urged Timothy to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. If we are to live in grace, why does Paul give these rules and standards for Christians to obey? Are we to rely on grace alone, or do we have a role to play? (Romans 6:1, 12:2; 2 Peter 1:3-9)

2. What does the Bible say about the heart? (Proverbs 3:5-6, 4:23; Matthew 5:8) How does Paul's list of godly character traits reflect where Christian's hearts should be?

3. When Paul says that the Bible is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training, what makes the Bible the necessary tool for these actions? (Psalm 119:105, 130; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

2. What importance do you give to sound doctrine? What steps can you take to make sure your knowledge of God's truth is sound and ready for opposition?

3. We are called to love those who persecute us, turn the other cheek, feed, and clothe our enemy. How has Jesus done this for you?