

“A Call to Arms”

1 Timothy 4:11-16

1/2/21

WELCOME:

(1 minute)

INTRO:

(2 minutes)

- **Illustration:** New Year's Resolution(s)
 - **Q:** As we've begun 2021, have you made any New Year “resolutions”?
 - **EXAMPLE** → Go to the gym, eat healthier, learn a new instrument...
 - **Q:** In the past, have you started something, but eventually quit?
 - **A:** This text serves as a reminder & exhortation for Timothy to “resolve” not to quit, but instead preserve in his call as a Christian & leader to exemplify Christ

RECAP & CONTEXT:

(2 minutes)

- **Where we started:** Timothy to lead Church of Ephesus
 - Called to **PROCLAIM** the Gospel
 - Called to **GUARD** the Gospel
 - Called to **CELEBRATE** the Gospel
 - Called to **FIGHT** for the Gospel
- **Where we are going** (purpose for letter): Book Overview
 - Roles/function of men & women
 - Choosing Leadership (Qualifications)

- Reality of Spiritual Warfare
- ****How Church is to point others towards Jesus****
- **Where we are now: Current Situation**
 - **Last week** → Paul made Tim aware of spiritual warfare & his call (v.9-10)
 - Paul instructed Tim to teach JESUS!
 - **This week** → Paul tells Tim to declare the Truth & live-out his call b/c of the previous info
 - Encourages Tim to stand strong in Christ
 - Explains why Tim's example is important
- **Sermon Title: "A Call to Arms"**

BIG IDEA:

(1 minute)

- **Big Idea: The Christian life must exemplify Jesus above all else**
 - This passage builds on instruction to **"BE"** (v.1-10)
 - The instruction pointed to Jesus (v.9-10)
 - **NOW** → Paul exhorts Timothy to be an example to others by **"DO-ing"**

PRAY:

(1 minute)

READ:

(1 minute)

- **Text: 1 Timothy 4:11-16**

¹¹ Command and teach these things. ¹² Don't let anyone despise your youth, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in

faith, and in purity. ¹³ Until I come, give your attention to public reading, exhortation, and teaching. ¹⁴ Don't neglect the gift that is in you; it was given to you through prophecy, with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. ¹⁵ Practice these things; be committed to them, so that your progress may be evident to all. ¹⁶ Pay close attention to your life and your teaching; persevere in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.

PREVIEW:

(1 minute)

- **Main Points:**

- 1 – **Lead with confidence** (v.11-12)
- 2 – **Live with purpose** (v.13-14)
- 3 – **Practice what you preach** (v.15-16)

PILLAR 1: **Lead with confidence** (v.11-12)

(10 minutes)

(v.11)

- “Command & Teach **THESE THINGS**”
 - Command = military term
 - Not a suggestion, but an order
 - Snap to it; don't hesitate
 - Teach = (Oxford Dictionary def. below)
 - *“Show or explain (to someone) how to DO something.”*
 - **THEREFORE** → Paul is saying to Timothy:
 - (1) Tell them

- (2) Show them
- **Q:** What are “*these things*” that are to be commanded & taught?

- **A:** The Gospel + Paul’s instructions
- **CONTEXT:** Previous verses of letter (4:9-10)

⁹ This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance. ¹⁰ For this reason we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

- ****It all points back to Jesus!**
- **WHO** Jesus IS, **WHO** Christians are to BE, **WHAT** Christians are to DO must be understood to comprehend v.11-16

(v.12)

- **Note:** Paul always addresses the elephant in the room first
- Addressing potential Hinderances & Excuses
 - **#1:** Age is **NOT** a legitimate hinderance to lead well
 - *“Don’t let anyone despise your youth...”*
 - **CONTEXT:** “Youth” defined
 - **TODAY:** Youth = teens
 - **THEN:** Youth = < 35 y/o
 - **CONCLUSION:** Tim was 25-35 y/o
 - Local church has responsibility to follow leadership (and not focus on age)

- #2: Leaders must set godly example that reveals they are worthy to be followed
 - *“...but [you] set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.”*
 - Leaders hold personal responsibility to set a godly example (for other believers)
- **ILLUSTRATION:** This instruction is like a 2-sided Coin
 - An authentic coin has 2 sides: heads & tails
 - Likewise, authentic leadership requires 2 sides: A leader & followers
 - (1) Local church responsibility
 - Churches should not discriminate leaders b/c they don't fit “the mold”
 - (2) Leader responsibility
 - Leaders must lead as tho respect is earned, not given
- Areas to set an example in
 - 5 areas outlined:
 - Speech
 - Conduct
 - Love
 - Faith
 - Purity
 - These 5 areas are **PUBLIC** and **PRIVATE**
 - Reminds Timothy to grow in godliness

- Importance of spiritual health & maturity
 - Includes what may not be obvious to others
- Why this is important:
 - ****The “leadership” and “example” Paul references is a call to be a “Disciple Maker”**
 - **AND** → Every Christian is called to be a disciple-maker (Matt. 28:18-20)
 - **THEREFORE** → These instructions apply not only to pastors, but all Christians
- **ILLUSTRATION:** Annual Physical Exam
 - Every year you get a physical exam
 - You go whether you feel sick or not
 - The purpose is to inspect your body & ensure healthy
 - Doctors evaluate all areas b/c problems may exist that are not obvious from the outside
- **APPLICATION:**
 - **Q:** Like a physical exam, are you actively inspecting your life — both the areas seen and unseen to others?
 - **Q:** Are you growing in the areas specifically outlined?
 - **Q:** Are you setting an example for the world to see?
 - **Q:** Are you following those God has appointed as leaders?

PILLAR 2: Live with purpose (v.13-14)
(v.13)

(10 minutes)

- Paul presents the “how to” of leadership
 - **CONTEXT:** Timothy to correct & lead @ Ephesus
 - Paul sent Timothy as a leader
 - Paul delegated authority to Timothy
 - Timothy to help redirect Church of Ephesus
 - (v.13) → Timothy to remain in Ephesus temporarily
 - *“Until I come...”*
 - Reminds Timothy he’s been called to lead at this time in this place (Ephesus)
 - **HOWEVER** → Timothy is to *“give his attention”* to specific tasks while there
 - 3 tasks Timothy is to **“DO”**
 - (1) Public Reading
 - (2) Exhortation (*preaching*)
 - (3) Teaching
 - The order Paul presents matters
 - (1) **Public Reading** = God’s direction
 - (2) **Exhortation** = Man’s application
 - (3) **Teaching** = Man’s explanation
 - The NASB Commentary states:

“Preaching” includes moral instruction that appeals to the will, whereas “teaching” makes an appeal to the intellect and informs listeners about the truths of the Christian faith.
 - **ILLUSTRATION:** Building a tower in NYC

- **Q:** What's the most important part of a build?
- **A:** The foundation!
- Every step matters, but the foundation is most critical
- W/o a sturdy foundation, the walls crumble
- **THEREFORE** → ****God's Word must be our foundation**

2 Tim. 3:16-17 → ¹⁶ *All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

- ****The power is NOT in what Timothy thinks**
- ****BUT** → Power is in what God says
- Timothy's job is to proclaim & help the local church apply God's Word
- **APPLICATION:**
 - **Q:** Do you **BELIEVE & TRUST** this to be true?
 - **Q:** Do you look to God's Word & ways **first**?
 - **Q:** Are you willing to **surrender & obey** no matter what?

(v.14)

- Remembering your purpose
 - Paul reiterates the call given to Timothy

- (1) *“Don’t neglect the gift that is in you”*
 - (2) *“It was given through prophecy, with the laying on of hands by the council of elders.”*
- **General gift + Specific call** Explained
 - *“Gift that is in you”* = Holy Spirit
 - *“Given thru prophecy”* = call of an Overseer
- Importance of remembering your call
 - Timothy is **NOT** called to lead b/c it’s easy
 - Timothy **IS** called to lead b/c God called Him
- **ILLUSTRATION:** Missionary Karen Watson
 - Missionary to Iraq
 - Killed on March 15, 2004
 - Wrote a letter that was only to be opened if she died...

“I wasn't called to a place; I was called to Him... To obey was my objective, to suffer was expected, His glory my reward.”

- **APPLICATION:**
 - **Q:** Are you looking to the Lord and listening for His direction?
 - **Q:** When the going gets tough, are you resting in knowing He has called you?
 - **Q:** Where are you drawing your peace and joy from?

PILLAR 3: Practice what you preach (v.15-16)

(10 minutes)

(v.15)

- Do what God has called you to do
 - **LAST WEEK** → BE who God called you to be
 - **THIS WEEK** → DO what God has called you to do
 - **(1) “Practice these things”**
 - “These things” = Christlike growth & example
 - **(2) “Be committed to them”**
 - “Committed to them” = Dedication to the call
 - **(3) “So your progress may be evident to all”**
 - “Evident to all” = Your witness & discipleship
 - ****Not for our glory → BUT, for God’s glory**

(v.16)

- A strong warning given
 - **“Pay close attention to your *LIFE & your TEACHING*”**
 - Paul reiterates importance of what you DO and what you SAY → (v.11)
 - **“Persevere in these things”**
 - Do **NOT** quit or neglect what was shared earlier → (all of 1 Timothy)
- Why pay close attention?
 - **“For in doing this *you will save both yourself and your hearers.*”**
 - A strong warning that:
 - *Your* → life speaks
 - *Your* → witness matters
 - *People* → are always watching

- One commentary reads:

“In the context of the Pastoral Letters this verse can best be interpreted by stating it negatively: If you do not combine godliness with proper doctrine in your life, you will give the lie to your own claim of salvation and be a hindrance to others who seek to be saved.” — NIV Commentary

- ...

- Paul was **NOT** teaching salvation by “works”
- **INSTEAD** → He was stressing ministerial weightiness & responsibility

▪ **James 3:1** → *“Not many should become teachers, my brothers, because you know that we will receive a stricter judgment.”*

- **HOWEVER** → Every Christians shares responsibility of representing Christ to world
- **ILLUSTRATION:** [Police Academy Trauma Training](#)
 - Were told by instructors to pay attention
 - If we slacked off in training, it would be at expense of someone else in need
 - Must be aware & prepared to help
 - Requires attention & diligence
- **APPLICATION:**
 - **Q:** Do you view this instruction as serious & weighty?

- **Q:** Do you realize what you say & do has an impact on others?
- **REMEMBER** → Everyone's life speaks...
 - **Q:** So, what is your life saying to others?
 - **Q:** ****Are you being an example that draws people closer, or pushes them away from Jesus?**

REITERATE BIG IDEA & MAIN POINTS:

(1 minute)

- **Big Idea:** The Christian life must exemplify Jesus above all else
 - ****Don't neglect your call, but *resolve* to live on mission by exemplifying Jesus to the world!****
- **Main Points:**
 - 1 – **Lead with confidence** (v.11-12)
 - 2 – **Live with purpose** (v.13-14)
 - 3 – **Practice what you preach** (v.15-16)

CLOSE / PRAY:

(2 minutes)