

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD MINISTER

Introduction: Paul wrote to Timothy from his prison in Rome and exhorted him to be a good minister by propagating the word of God with intensity (2:1-13) and protecting the word of God from impurity (2:14-26). He gave Timothy seven characteristics of a good minister and related them to a teacher, a soldier, an athlete, a farmer, a workman, a vessel and a slave to help him remember these truths.

Lesson aim: Pray for pastors to exhibit the characteristics of a good minister of Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse: "Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim 2:1).

Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer

I. The Propagation of God's Word — 2:1-13

1. What was Timothy to do with the word of God that he had learned from Paul? 2:2
2. Name two characteristics of the men that Timothy was to teach? 2:2
3. In what way was Timothy to develop himself as a good soldier? 2:3-4
4. What characteristic was Timothy to learn from a successful athlete? 2:5
5. What was Timothy to learn from a farmer before he could eat the fruit of his harvest? 2:6
6. How would you relate your answers in questions 3-5 to your Christian life?
7. What aspect of the gospel caused Paul to suffer and be in bonds? 2:8-9
8. Why was Paul willing to suffer affliction like a soldier, athlete and farmer? 2:10
9. What two promises did Paul mention to encourage believers? 2:11-12
10. What warning did Paul give? 2:12; Mt 10:33

II. The Protection of God's Word — 2:14-26

11. Since "study" is a command to "be diligent" (same word in 4:9, 21), how was Timothy to avoid shame when God would examine him? 2:15; cf. Phil 1:20
12. What are three results if a pastor allows corrupt teaching to be taught in the church? 2:16-18
13. What is a person's responsibility that claims the name of Christ? 2:19
14. If the "great house" refers to Christendom, who are the vessels of honor and dishonor? 2:20; cf Mt 25:31-33
15. How can a person be a vessel of honor, ready to be used by the Master? 2:21; cf 2 Cor 5:17
16. What should a believer flee? 2:22-23
17. What should a believer follow? 2:22
18. How should a servant (slave) of the Lord treat those that are trapped by the devil? 2:24-25
19. How is a person able to escape from the snare of the devil? 2:25-26