



A Biblical Focus for Faithful Service

A Noble Servant's Focus for Ministry: Biblical Ministry as a Lifestyle

1 Timothy 4:13

1 Timothy 4:11-16

Six ministry essentials that help us maintain a **godly focus** in our service in the life of our church

- I. A biblical focus on **pure doctrine** (1 Tim. 4:11)
- II. A biblical focus on being a **godly example** (1 Tim. 4:12)
- III. A biblical focus on **church** ministry (1 Tim. 4:13)

III. A biblical focus on church ministry (1 Tim. 4:13)

“Until I come...”

III. A biblical focus on **church** ministry (1 Tim. 4:13)

*“Until I come, **give attention to...**”*

‘Apply all your **focus** and **energies** to doing the following things, so that you are **consistently** and **faithfully** doing these things as your way of life as a servant of God, of the Word, and of the church.’

*“For Ezra had **set his heart** to **study** the law of Yahweh and to **practice** it, and to **teach** His statute and judgment in Israel.” (Ezra 7:10)*

III. A biblical focus on **church** ministry (1 Tim. 4:13)

As a Christian, as a member of Grace Church Williamsburg, how do you personally understand the *heart* of what a pastor does in his service to God and the church?

Paul **centralizes** the heart of **pastoral work** (church ministry) in three ministries of God's Word.

III. A biblical focus on **church** ministry (1 Tim. 4:13)

God's design for faithful pastoral work centers on being devoted to:

1. "...the **public reading** of Scripture..."

"**Public**" and "**of Scripture**" are not in the original Greek text but implied by the meaning of "**the reading.**"

- Nehemiah 8:1-8
- Luke 4:16-21

III. A biblical focus on **church** ministry (1 Tim. 4:13)

God's design for faithful pastoral work centers on being devoted to:

1. "...the **public reading** of Scripture..."

*"For from ancient generations, Moses has those who preach him in every city, **since he is read in the synagogues** every Sabbath. (Acts 15:21)*

*"And when this letter [Colossians] is **read** among you, have it also **read** in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part **read** my letter that is coming from Laodicea." (Col 4:16)*

How did the apostles view this for the gatherings of the church family?

*"I **implore you by the Lord** to have this letter read to all the brothers."
(1 Thess. 5:27)*

III. A biblical focus on **church** ministry (1 Tim. 4:13)

God's design for faithful pastoral work centers on being devoted to:

2. "...**exhortation**..."

"Exhortation challenges people to **apply the truths** they have been taught. It warns people to obey, in light of the blessing to come on them if they do, and the judgment if they do not. Exhortation may take the form of rebuke, warning, counsel, or comfort, but always involves a binding of the conscience." (*John MacArthur*)

*"For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through the perseverance and the **encouragement of the Scriptures** we might have hope."* (Rom. 15:4)

III. A biblical focus on **church** ministry (1 Tim. 4:13)

God's design for faithful pastoral work centers on being devoted to:

3. "...**teaching**."

Paul's three-fold pastoral emphasis on Scripture can be summed up this way:

"Thus Paul urges a public ministry that **reads** the Scriptures to the gathered Christians, **exhorts** them to respond appropriately, and **teaches** them its principles." (*George W. Knight*)

III. A biblical focus on church ministry (1 Tim. 4:13)

Does your ministry support and undergird the pulpit ministry of your pastors?

As you involve yourself in ministry here, is that service in keeping with what is taught from the Bible?

Are you placing the highest priority on helping keep the pulpit, or God's Word, the central feature of our worship gatherings?

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