

I Timothy 4:9-16  
Setting an Example

Trustworthy saying #3 (9-10) – ***that which is based on the truth of Scripture and the Gospel***

Our labor (Colossians 1:28-29) – ***our striving in His strength – for Him it is never in vain***

Our hope (Titus 2:13) – in the Savior of all – ***the only hope that lasts (I Peter 1:3)***

It is not in men – ***men will always disappoint us (Proverbs 29:25)***

It is not in ourselves – ***we cannot trust even ourselves (I Corinthians 4:4)***

Teaching by example (11-12) – commanding others to do what we won't? (Matthew 23:4)

***Or saying one thing and doing another – both are detrimental to the cause of Christ***

Our speech (Ephesians 4:29 / Colossians 3:6)

***Full of grace – intended to build others up – speaking the truth in love***

Our life (Matthew 5:16)

***Light of Jesus Christ seen in our good deeds***

Our love (Ephesians 5:1-2)

***Imitating the manner in which God has loved us (I John 3:16-18)***

Our faith (I Thessalonians 1:8-10)

***A faith that is seen, that turns from idols, and that hopes in the Lord's return***

Our purity (II Corinthians 7:1)

***Removing the things that contaminate body, soul, and spirit***

Teaching the Word (13-14)

Public reading (Nehemiah 8:8)

***The safest part of teaching is reading His Word***

Preaching and teaching

***Both public proclamation and individual or group teaching***

Practicing your gift (I Peter 4:10)

***Whatever our gift, we are to use it for serving others***

Teaching yourself (15-16)

***Do we respond to what the Lord is teaching us – showing our love through obedience?***

Diligence (II Timothy 4:1-2)

***Be true, be prepared, be careful, and be patient***

Doctrinal purity (James 3:1 / II Corinthians 4:2)

***Know that teachers are held to a higher standard, and must prove faithful***

Deliverance – for yourself and your hearers (Acts 20:26-27)

***The whole counsel of His Word – allowing the Spirit to change our lives***

## Discussion questions for I Timothy 4:9-16

Why must we strive to keep our hope focused on our Savior? (I Timothy 4:9-10)

(I John 2:15-17 / I Peter 1:13 / Hebrews 11:13-16, 24-26 / Romans 5:3-5)

***The world appeals to our pride and our lust, endangering us of becoming idolators. Our only hope must be beyond what this world offers – looking to what Jesus has prepared for us in glory. We must be like those whose faith was focused not on this life, but on what the future holds for the faithful. This hope allows us to rejoice even in suffering because we have come to know His love for us.***

Our example must be a witness to what we say we believe. Why is this so critical? (I Timothy 4:11-12)

(I Corinthians 4:17; 11:1 / Philippians 3:17-20 / Matthew 5:16; 23:13, 27-28)

***If we do not live according to what we say we believe, especially as leaders or teachers, our message can do more harm than good – even if we teach the truth. (consider the damage done by church leaders that have covered up their sin) We must be able to encourage others by our example, not perfect, but seeking to show our love for Jesus by our obedience. His light is seen in us by our deeds and bring glory to God. Otherwise we become like the pharisees, unwilling to do the things we impose on others and pretending to be something we are not.***

How does a teacher of the Word effectively communicate God's truth? (I Timothy 4:13-16)

(Acts 20:26-28 / Ephesians 4:11-13 / Colossians 4:5-6 / II Timothy 4:1-5)

***Be willing to share the whole counsel of God's word – not just our favorite passages or topics. Be willing to speak of God's holiness and justice – not just His love and mercy. Keep watch over our own lives, lest we fall into temptation. Equip others with the word that each of us may grow in the faith, be used in service for Him, and actively seek to see the body of Christ grow to become more like Jesus. To always be ready to share God's word, whether or not it is popular. To be careful and patient in our instruction, allowing the power of His Word and His Spirit work on the hearts and lives of those we teach.***

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