

1 Timothy 4:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Analysis

Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine (ἔως ἔρχομαι πρόσεχε τῇ ἀναγνώσει, τῇ παρακλήσει, τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ, heōs erchomai proseche tē anagnōsei, tē paraklēsei, tē didaskalia)—'devote yourself to the public reading, to exhortation, to teaching.' Prosechō means to give attention, devote oneself to, focus on.

Reading (anagnōsis) refers to public reading of Scripture in worship—the foundation of Christian gathering (Colossians 4:16, 1 Thessalonians 5:27).

Exhortation (paraklēsis) is encouragement, appeal, consolation—applying Scripture to life. **Doctrine** (didaskalia) is systematic teaching, explanation of truth.

These three elements form the core of pastoral ministry: read Scripture publicly, exhort the congregation to obedience, teach sound doctrine systematically. Timothy's ministry isn't innovation but faithful exposition and application of God's Word. The sequence is crucial: read the text, urge its application, explain its meaning.

Historical Context

Early Christian worship followed synagogue patterns: public Scripture reading followed by exposition and exhortation (Acts 13:15, Luke 4:16-21). In a largely illiterate culture where few owned Scripture copies, public reading was essential. Timothy's ministry centered on Scripture—reading it aloud, applying it personally,

teaching it accurately. This biblical focus distinguished Christian worship from pagan ritual and mystery religions.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Why does Paul prioritize public Scripture reading as central to worship?
2. How do reading, exhortation, and teaching work together in pastoral ministry?
3. What does this verse teach about the sufficiency of Scripture for church life?

Interlinear Text

ἔως	ἔρχομαι	πρόσεχε	τῇ	ἀναγνώσει	τῇ	παρακλήσει
Till	I come	give attendance	G3588	to reading	G3588	to exhortation
G2193	G2064	G4337		G320		G3874
τῇ	διδασκαλίᾳ					
G3588	to doctrine					
	G1319					

Additional Cross-References

Acts 6:4 (Parallel theme): But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

Titus 2:15 (Parallel theme): These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

1 Timothy 4:16 (Parallel theme): Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

2 Timothy 4:2 (Parallel theme): Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Acts 17:11 (Parallel theme): These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

John 5:39 (Parallel theme): Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

1 Timothy 4:6 (Parallel theme): If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

Deuteronomy 17:19 (Parallel theme): And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:

Joshua 1:8 (Parallel theme): This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.