

1 Timothy 4:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

Analysis

Meditate upon these things (ταῦτα μελέτα, tauta meleta)—'practice these things,' 'be diligent in them.' Meletaō means to care for, attend to, practice, ponder—more than intellectual meditation, it's devoted practice. **Give thyself wholly to them** (ἐν τούτοις ἴσθι, en toutois isthi)—literally 'be in these things,' immerse yourself completely.

That thy profiting may appear to all (ἵνα σου ἡ προκοπή φανερά ᾖ πᾶσιν, hina sou hē prokopē phanera ē pasin)—'so that your progress may be evident to all.' Prokopē means advancement, progress, growth—visible spiritual development. Paul calls Timothy to total devotion producing observable maturity.

Ministry requires whole-life commitment. Timothy must immerse himself in Scripture reading, prayer, teaching, godliness—not as compartmentalized activities but as a way of life. The result will be evident growth that validates his ministry. Spiritual leaders must be growing people—stagnation disqualifies.

Historical Context

Timothy was relatively young (4:12) and faced critics who questioned his authority. Paul urges him to demonstrate spiritual maturity through devoted practice of ministry essentials. In ancient culture where age equaled authority, Timothy's visible growth would silence critics better than defensive argumentation. Let your progress speak for itself.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to 'give yourself wholly' to spiritual things—what does total devotion look like?
2. Why is visible spiritual progress important for ministry credibility?
3. What specific practices lead to the kind of growth Paul describes here?

Interlinear Text

ταῦτα	μελέτα	ἐν	τούτοις	ἴσθι	ἵνα	σου	ἡ
these things	Meditate upon	to	them	give thyself	that	thy	G3588
G5023	G3191	G1722	G5125	G2468	G2443	G4675	

προκοπή	φανερὰ	ἢ	ἐν	πᾶσιν
profiting	appear	may	to	all
G4297	G5318	G5600	G1722	G3956

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 5:16 (Parallel theme): Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Psalms 143:5 (Parallel theme): I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands.

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

Psalms 104:34 (Parallel theme): My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD.

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.

Psalms 119:148 (Parallel theme): Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word.

Psalms 119:15 (Parallel theme): I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.

Psalms 119:97 (Parallel theme): O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

Psalms 119:99 (Parallel theme): I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

Psalms 119:48 (Parallel theme): My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.