

1 Timothy 4:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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.

Paul provides pastoral instruction for church leadership and sound doctrine. This verse contributes to Paul's overall purpose in 1 Timothy: Instruct in church leadership and sound doctrine. The key themes of church order, leadership qualifications, false teaching are evident in this passage.

Historical Context

Historical Setting: 1 Timothy was written around 62-64 CE from Macedonia to Timothy pastoring in Ephesus.

Occasion: Providing pastoral instructions. These 'Pastoral Epistles' provided guidance for church leadership and organization. False teachers threatened sound doctrine, requiring strong, qualified leadership.

First-century believers lived in a pluralistic, pagan society with many parallels to today. Social structures, economic pressures, and religious confusion all challenged Christian witness. Paul's instructions addressed both timeless theological truths and specific cultural situations.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does 1 Timothy 4:16 deepen my understanding of the gospel and God's character?
2. What specific action or attitude change does this verse call me to make this week?
3. How does this passage point to Christ and His redemptive work?

Interlinear Text

ἔπεχε	σεαυτὸν	καὶ	τῇ	διδασκαλίᾳ	ἐπίμενε	αὐτοῖς·
Take heed	thyself	and	G3588	unto the doctrine	continue	in them
G1907	G4572	G2532		G1319	G1961	G846
τοῦτο	γὰρ	ποιῶν	καὶ	σεαυτὸν	σώσεις	καὶ τοὺς
this	for	in doing	and	thyself	save	and G3588
G5124	G1063	G4160	G2532	G4572	G4982	G2532
ἀκούοντάς	σου					
them that hear	thee					
G191	G4675					

Additional Cross-References

Titus 1:9 (Parallel theme): Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Titus 2:7 (Parallel theme): In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

1 Chronicles 28:10 (Parallel theme): Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it.

Hebrews 12:15 (Parallel theme): Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

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

2 Timothy 3:14 (Parallel theme): But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

Hebrews 13:9 (Parallel theme): Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

Isaiah 55:11 (Parallel theme): So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Ephesians 4:14 (Parallel theme): That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

1 Timothy 1:3 (Parallel theme): As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,