

1 Timothy 4:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things (Ταῦτα ὑποτιθέμενος τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς, Tauta hypotithemenos tois adelphois)—'if you point these things out to the brothers.' Hypotithēmi means to lay before, suggest, remind. Timothy must teach the truths Paul has outlined—creation's goodness, false teachers' errors, godliness through spiritual training.

Thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ (καλὸς ἔσῃ διάκονος Χριστοῦ Ἰησοῦ, kalos esē diakonos Christou Iēsou)—'you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus.' Kalos means good, excellent, fine. Diakonos means servant, minister. **Nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine** (ἐντρεφόμενος τοῖς λόγοις τῆς πίστεως καὶ τῆς καλῆς διδασκαλίας, entrephomenos tois logois tēs pisteōs kai tēs kalēs didaskalias)—'being trained in the words of the faith and good teaching.' Entrephō means to rear, nourish, train.

Good ministry flows from two sources: reminding believers of truth and personally being nourished by sound doctrine. Timothy must teach what he's learned—the pattern of faithful teaching passed from Paul to Timothy to the church. Ministers need constant intake of God's Word to have something genuine to give others.

Historical Context

In oral cultures, memory and repetition were essential for preserving teaching. Timothy must regularly remind the church of apostolic truth—not innovating but faithfully transmitting what he received. The minister's effectiveness depends on his own spiritual nourishment—you can't feed others from an empty soul. Paul emphasizes Timothy's need for constant intake of 'words of faith and good doctrine.'

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Why is 'reminding' believers of truth such an important pastoral task?
2. How does a minister's personal nourishment in Scripture affect his ability to feed others?
3. What does it mean to be 'a good minister of Jesus Christ'—what makes ministry 'good'?

Interlinear Text

Ταῦτα ὑποτιθέμενος τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς καλῆς ἔσῃ
of these things If thou put the brethren a good thou shalt be
G5023 G5294 G3588 G80 G2570 G2071

διάκονος Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐντρεφόμενος τοῖς λόγοις τῆς
minister of Jesus Christ nourished up in the words G3588 G3056 G3588
G1249 G2424 G5547 G1789 G3056

πίστεως καὶ τῆς καλῆς διδασκαλίας ἢ
of faith and G3588 a good doctrine whereunto
G4102 G2532 G2570 G1319 G3739

παρηκολούθηκας·
thou hast attained
G3877

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 3:16 (Word): Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Colossians 4:7 (Faith): All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:

1 Timothy 1:10 (Parallel theme): For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

Titus 2:1 (Parallel theme): But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: