



8/27/2023 AM

**Introduction:**

“Qualities of an Excellent Minister” (John MacArthur)

- 1) warns his people of error. (4:6a)
- 2) is an expert student of Scripture. (4:6c)
- 3) avoids the influence of unholy teaching. (4:7a)
- 4) disciplines himself for godliness. (4:7b)
- 5) is committed to hard work. (4:10)
- 6) teaches with authority. (4:11)
- 7) is a model of spiritual virtue. (4:12)
- 8) has a thoroughly biblical ministry. (4:13)
- 9) fulfills his calling. (4:14)
- 10) is totally absorbed in his work. (4:15a)
- 11) is progressing in spiritual growth. (4:15b)

**I. EXEMPLARY IN DEDICATION TO SPIRITUAL VALUES (vs. 11-12)**

“prescribe and teach these things”

“Let no one look down on your youthfulness...”

“show yourself an example of those who believe”

A. In Your Conversation (“in speech”)

B. In Your Conduct (“in conduct”)

C. In Your Compassion (“in love”)

D. In Your Character (“in faith”)

E. In Your Convictions (“in purity”)

**II. EXEMPLARY IN DEVOTION TO SCRIPTURE (vs. 13-14)**

A. Read it! (vs. 13a)

“until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture”

B. Proclaim it! (vs. 13b)

“to preaching”

C. Explain it! (vs. 13c)

“to teaching”

D. Apply it! (vs. 14)

“Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you...” (Romans 12, I Corinthians 12; I Peter 4)

“which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery”

### **III. EXEMPLARY IN DILIGENT SERVICE (vs. 15-16)**

A. Concentration (vs. 15a & 16a)

“be diligent in these matters”

“watch your life and doctrine closely”

B. Commitment (vs. 15b & 16b)

“give yourself wholly to them”

“persevere in them”

C. Consequences (vs. 15c & 16c)

“so that everyone may see your progress”

“if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers”

### **Conclusion:**

- 1) Disrespect is overcome by good example, not through confrontation or posturing.
- 2) An addiction to the Scriptures should characterize our lives.
- 3) You should take pains to identify and develop the spiritual gift(s) that God has given you.
- 4) Self-discipline is best evidenced by progress that is apparent to others.

### **Food for Thought:**

- 1) From where does a believer get the authority to teach or correct someone else? How do we use that authority rightly without abusing it?
- 2) What is the best way for a believer to avoid falling into sin?
- 3) How might a person “neglect the spiritual gift” that is in him? How might he best develop that gift?
- 4) How do you measure spiritual progress?