

Bible Study
Wednesday, January 23, 2019

“Character”

1 Timothy 4:12-16

“A feeling of responsibility for others is the first step toward unselfishness and maturity.”

- Unknown

“When your shoulders are carrying a load of responsibility, there isn’t room for chips.”

- Unknown

Like it or not, if you are saved, you have been given a measure of responsibility according to your current ability – **Matthew 25:15**. No one is exempt from having responsibility. Biblical responsibility is focused on bettering the lives of people other than you. You may benefit in the process, but it is focused on others – Moses (**Exodus 3:10**), Joshua (**Joshua 1:2**), Paul (**Acts 9:15**), and Jesus (**Luke 4:18-19**).

Whether you lead a ministry or not here at Mt. Zion, as a Christian, you have a responsibility to and for other people – **Matthew 28:19-20**, **2 Corinthians 5:18-20**, **Ephesians 4:12**, and **1 Corinthians 12:7**.

Since your responsibility involves other people, your character must be blameless. Those who think about themselves will refute this. However, when you’re like Jesus and are thinking of others, you will constantly reach for this (**Philippians 2:5-8**). “As children of God, once committed to Christ, He changes our character to be in line with His – **2 Corinthians 5:17**, **John 15:9-13**, **1 Peter 1:16**.”

Timothy was charged with a great responsibility. Now, Paul charged him to have the character to go with it. “Be” means *keep on becoming*.

1. Be Different (**verse 12**). Paul’s desire is that no one despises Timothy for being young. We know that God doesn’t want anyone to despise you for anything that you cannot control. You cannot control your age, gender, ethnicity, what happened in the past, etc. However, you can control how you behave now. You cannot make any person respect you. But, you can live in such a way that the only reasonable option is to respect you.
2. Be Dedicated (**verses 13-14**). Be dedicated to the ministry of the Word. Be dedicated to living out your calling and exercising your gifting.
3. Be Disciplined (**verses 15-16a**). Timothy was instructed to give himself entirely to it. One person stated it this way, “our focused attention becomes our reality.” Whatever you give yourself to, that’s what you’ll become. Give yourself entirely to God. This means other things in life are no longer priority of “musts.” Everything else in life revolves around God and what He has called me to do. When we do this, we will be effective in what God has for us.