

you in some area of life, be prepared to follow it and to allow it to give you the freedom of life and conscience it brings.

III, Conclusion: We used to read of the people who took cruises and did not realize that the food was included in their ticket price and so they ate snacks and stuff they brought with them rather than the great dinners served on the boat. And when we chuckled at that someone then told us that we were like that when we have all the truth of the Scripture available and hardly take advantage of it. That is no doubt correct but there is no point in just feeling miserable about it...we need to give ourselves to it and appropriate it in daily living.

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MESSAGE # 4: A DISCIPLINED LIFE

Biblical Passages: 2 Timothy 2, 4; 1 Timothy 4, et al

I. Introducing the Subject:

The concept of a disciplined life is not that of a cast iron disposition that never flinches or is tired but is that of one who has purpose and goal in life and moves to that end. Discipline indicates training and the best New Testament example I can think of is that of Paul in 1 Corinthians 9 where he tells us of his determination to be a useful participant in the work of God. His advice to Timothy in the passages noted above is based on his own experience and dedication and since he applies it to Timothy we are wise to apply it to ourselves. We commit ourselves and make sure that the progress of life is to that end and we do not allow a lot of distractions to sway us from the course. Those are the essential ingredients in a disciplined life and we will look at some of the ramifications in this talk.

II. Discussion

A. First, be trained in all relevant areas on these lines:

1. Spiritual --"be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus":
(2 Timothy 2:1) "fight the good fight of faith"
(1 Timothy 6:12) Timothy is regularly urged to give himself to godliness, to flee the things that are evil, and to witness a good profession after the example of the Lord