

Patterned After Jesus > 1 Timothy 4:6-16

4:6-10 The pattern that Paul gives for the Ephesian church and for Timothy is all about following Jesus. They are to do that in four ways: by holding on to and teaching only what is true, by doing the hard work of growing in the faith...

4:11-16 ...by being examples of the Lord's work that others can pattern their lives after, and by practicing (learning, growing in) the faith.

Context: Chapter four began with a description of the methods and patterns that the false teachers and those who follow them were heading towards. Now, in these verses, Paul gives the true path towards faithfulness.

Aim: Timothy – alongside the Ephesian church – is to live and think and act in ways that bring honor to Jesus and which provides a path towards faithfulness for a watching world.

Gospel: Paul's pattern throughout these verses is to take something that is true and then to show how Timothy and the Ephesians can embody and carry forth that truth. So, Christ's servant attitude is to be Timothy's pattern of life; the sure hope of salvation that Jesus offers to all who follow is to be what Timothy teaches others to place their hope upon; and the perfect and faithful life of Christ is to provide a trajectory that Timothy's imperfect life is to point toward.

Applications: When it comes to the faith, is your pattern of thinking and doing the same one found here? Is your life something that points to Jesus and could be followed as a faithful example?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
