

Good Minister part 3 - Toil and Strive

Lorne Sanny

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: 1 Timothy 4.
- B. There is something awesome about a godly life. (Mark 6:20)
- C. We ought to rededicate our lives to work and battle for Him.

II. Why we must toil and strive.

- A. We live in an evil, sick and rebellious world.
- B. Violence abounds in the world because of lust. (James 4:2-4)
- C. The world is confused, lonely, ignorant and helpless.
- D. As a result men are estranged from themselves and in toil with God.

III. The answer is in the living God.

- A. We have our hope set on Him.
- B. Giving a man hope in God gives him an anchor. (Psalm 78:5-7)
- C. God wants to reconcile Himself to the world gone awry.
 - 1. This requires surrender - a full giving of self to the task.
 - 2. God can do more with one man fully surrendered than a hundred men partially surrendered.
 - 3. To do anything significant we have to be fully surrendered to the task at hand.
 - 4. God put in us an appetite for adventure - taking a risk. Many Christians do not live the abundant life Jesus spoke of because they have lost the spirit of adventure.
 - 5. Anything less than full surrender is not satisfying to God. It is both inadequate and characterized by treason.
 - 6. There are various sizes and stages of yielded-ness.

IV. Exhortations.

- A. Surrender yourself to new battles to fight.

B. Remember that God's will is not hard and tough but good, acceptable and perfect.
(Romans 12:2)

C. Endure whatever cross is to come for the joy set before you.

Application questions

1. Why are believers to toil and strive according to the speaker?

2. What part does yielded-ness play in laboring for the Lord? Explain.

3. What new work might the Lord be calling you into? Spend some time in prayer and write your reflections here.
