

## Lesson 4

**Memory verse** - Titus 2:7,8

I Tim. 4:12 "...but be thou an example of the believers..."

The word "but" is a word of contrast. Paul is contrasting the first part of this verse, "Let no man despise thy youth..." with "be thou an example of the believers..."

From this contrast we see that there is a negative example that a youth can exhibit that can bring despising from others. Instead of being an example of the believer, being an example of ungodliness.

When Paul says, "Let no man..." he isn't suggesting that Timothy can in some way prevent despising from occurring. We saw in Ps. That men despised the Lord. The idea here is don't give others the opportunity to despise you by being an example of ungodliness.

When God separated Abraham out to form the nation of Israel it was for several reasons, one of which is found in Deut. 4:5-8. In verse 6 we find that Israel was to be obedient to the Law in the sight of the \_\_\_\_\_ so that they would be drawn to Israel's God.

Read II Sam. 12:1-14. The sin David had committed had given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 14.

In I Tim. 5:1-16 we find Paul instructing Timothy about the care for widows in the church. Apparently there were widows who were living a life of \_\_\_\_\_ in vs. 6, a life of self-indulgence. So Paul was spelling out the criteria for church supported widows. When we get to verse 14 Paul says that the \_\_\_\_\_ women marry etc. and give none \_\_\_\_\_ to the adversary to speak \_\_\_\_\_. There is a behavior that younger women can "example" to bring reproach.

Titus 2:1-10 speaks to the issue of a believer's behavior and the effects it can have. In vs. 5 married women are to have a behavior that examples godliness that the \_\_\_\_\_ of God be not \_\_\_\_\_.

In vs. 7 and 8 young men are to example a godly behavior so that "he that is of the contrary part may be \_\_\_\_\_, having no \_\_\_\_\_ thing to \_\_\_\_\_ of you."

Another word in our verse for example is pattern. Titus 2:7 & 8 says "In \_\_\_\_\_ things \_\_\_\_\_ thyself a \_\_\_\_\_ of good \_\_\_\_\_; in doctrine..."

Sin in the life of the believer has far reaching consequences. Not only does it bring destruction in our own lives but it impacts those around us giving them the ammunition they're looking for to speak evil, reproachfully, against us and ultimately against the Lord.

Another area that is negatively affected by carnal believers is found in II Cor. 6:3 "Giving no \_\_\_\_\_ in any thing, that the \_\_\_\_\_ be not blamed." Paul had a great love for the ministry.

### Lesson 4 Continued

God had given Paul instructions concerning the manner through which His work would be accomplished in the age of grace. The preaching and teaching of Jesus Christ through individuals and local assemblies is God's design. Paul didn't want to give any cause for evil speaking against the ministry.

Look at II Cor. 8:16-21. In the business of "money" Paul wanted to be above board. In the arena of personal liberty Paul would rather forego his own so as not to be a \_\_\_\_\_ to others. Read Rom. 14:13 and I Cor. 8:9-13.

In I Cor. 9:12 Paul does not exercise power lest he should hinder the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. I Cor 10:23 speaking of liberty says all things \_\_\_\_\_ not.

Read I Cor. 10:31-33. In verse 32 Paul did not want to give offence to \_\_\_\_\_ or the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. In verse 33 – so that they may be \_\_\_\_\_. Paul's conduct was governed by his concern for the spiritual well being of others.

Recently a saved young person was involved in some questionable activity. When counseled with I Thes. 5:22 "Abstain from all appearance of evil.", this person's response was "I don't care what anybody thinks." This attitude is in direct opposition to the verses we have just looked at. The Christian life is not about you but the life of Christ being manifest in you.

I think we can all be guilty of thinking like this at times. Let's let the word of God reprove and correct our thinking and instruct us in the care and concern we should have for the spiritual well being of others and that that the ministry be not blamed.

In the next lesson we will look at what God's word has to say about what an "example", pattern, of a believer looks like.

## Lesson 4 Comments

### Answers to blanks

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|------------------|---------------------|------------|
| 1. nations       | 12. all             | 23. church |
| 2. blaspheme     | 13. shewing         | 24. saved  |
| 3. pleasure      | 14. pattern         |            |
| 4. younger       | 15. works           |            |
| 5. occasion      | 16. offences        |            |
| 6. reproachfully | 17. ministry        |            |
| 7. word          | 18. stumbling block |            |
| 8. blasphemed    | 19. gospel          |            |
| 9. ashamed       | 20. edify           |            |
| 10. evil         | 21. Jews            |            |
| 11. say          | 22. Gentiles        |            |

God desires for his children to example a godly life. We've seen some of the negative effects of not exemplifying a believer.

Not only is the world around us impacted by ungodly behavior but we ourselves suffer the effects of sin which are always death and corruption. Gal. 6:7-9

We are now ready to move on into the glorious life God has designed for believers. Hey, does anyone have the pattern??