

# Devotional...



Verse: 1Timothy 4:13 ESV

*<sup>13</sup> Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.*

The context of this statement must be considered. These Ephesian believers to whom Timothy was sent had come out of idol worship and witchcraft and been gloriously saved and delivered. They had made a public spectacle of burning their magic books and been the cause of a riot in the marketplace (see Acts 19). Now they were being influenced by false teachers who were leading them astray with idle talk, old wives tales and disputes over words. Some had departed from the gospel of God and been taken in by “deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”

Paul sent Timothy into this church to endeavour to bring them back to Jesus and the true gospel. He told Timothy to instruct and remind them of these things and to devote himself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and to teaching or doctrine. He was telling him to focus on the Word of God, to read it publicly and appeal, urge, entreat, beseech, encourage, comfort, console and teach the people, to bring them back to the truth. He emphasised the importance and place of the Word of God in their lives and church community. It was meant to have a place of prominence in their community. It is what would centre them in their faith and keep them safe from false teachings.

Paul says in Hebrews that “the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12 ESV)

What place does the Word of God have in your life? Are you susceptible to false teachings?

Praise God that He has given us His Word as an anchor and guide in our lives. It is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105)

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son to die for me and for giving me your Spirit and your Word to guide and help me. May your Word have the place of prominence it deserves in my life. Like the Psalmist, I pray that you would “turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way. Establish Your word” to me (Psalm 119:37-38), **in Jesus’ name. Amen.**