



Big Idea:

Invest your life in good of God's people and the glory of the Gospel.

1.) Invest your life in the good of God's *People* (v. 20-21).

- What stood out most about Timothy was his sincere investment in the lives of others.
- Like Timothy, Paul was all in for investing in God's people (Philippians 1:7-9, 2 Corinthians 11:28-29).
- **The identity of Christ's *Church* demands investment in each other.**
 - Our desires for self-gratifying independence are in direct conflict with our desires for real love and purpose in life.
 - Consider the metaphors used in Scripture to describe the community of believers in Christ (Eph. 2:19-22, 1 Cor. 12).
 - 1.) One Nation in Christ (v. 19)
 - 2.) One Family in Christ. (v. 19b)
 - 3.) One Temple in Christ (v. 20-22)
 - 4.) One Body in Christ (1 Corinthians 12)
 - In Christ, we are as connected as people can possibly be.
 - None of us will ever know or experience the fullness of Christ unless we are genuinely invested in the lives of other believers.
- **To invest in God's people is to invest in *Yourself*.**
 - As believers, God has made us one new man in Christ (Eph. 2:15-16)
 - Our ***Oneness*** in Christ explains the Second Greatest Commandment—"Love your neighbor as yourself." (Mat. 22:37-39)

- When we love others who are in Christ, there is an eternal, spiritual sense in which we really are loving ourselves.
- As one integrated body of Christ, what is good for other members of the body is good for me (1 Corinthians 12:25-27).
- **To invest in God's people is to invest in *Christ* (v. 20-21).**
 - In v. 21, as an extension of his investment in others (v. 20), Paul commends Timothy as one who looks out for the interests of Christ.
 - To live for other believers is to live for Christ Himself (Matt. 25:40).
 - The "least of these" in Mat. 25 refers to believers.
 - The way we treat *Each Other* in the church is, quite literally, the way that we treat Christ Himself (Acts 9:5).
 - We cannot be all in for Christ unless we are all in for each other.

2.) Invest your life in the glory of the *Gospel* (v.21-22).

- v. 22 – Timothy proved his love for Christ by serving others for the sake of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 9:19, 23).
- Investing our lives wisely is not just about serving others, but serving them for the right reason.
- A life that matters is a life that is intensely invested in the Gospel going forward.

-- Epaphroditus: Illustration of an Investor in Eternity (v. 25-30)

Application

- *Where are you investing your life? How will those investments fare on the day of Christ?*
- *To what degree are you investing in the lives of the brothers and sisters around you?*
- *For whose kingdom are you living: God's kingdom or your own?*