

Special Study

New Senior Minister for White Station Church

Anticipating the Ministry of Bob Turner

These discussion questions are linked to three videos on the function of ministry

Video 1 – “A Good Minister of Christ Jesus” / 1 Timothy 4:1-16

1. This text opens with Paul’s commentary on the *cultural setting* Timothy was beginning to see unfold in his world. Name three or four key cultural challenges to the church in 2020.
2. What is Paul’s point about “physical training” at v.8? What are the *spiritual disciplines* you believe to be most important for preachers and teachers of the gospel?
3. The crux of this text for our purpose is at vs.11-14. Explore these verses under the headings at v.16 – “you will save both (a) *yourself* and (b) *your hearers*.”
4. How would you characterize a healthy relationship between a preacher and the “body of elders” (see v.14) that will charge, empower, and protect him in ministry?
5. What expectation does v.15 allow you to have of Bob? What does it imply for the desirability of a long-term ministry for him and White Station?

Video 2 – “Preach the Word” / 2 Timothy 3:10 – 4:5

1. Second Timothy appears to be Paul’s final letter available to us, as he awaited martyrdom at Rome under the infamous Nero (see 4:6ff) – so we have a link to our studies in 1 Peter and the “chosen exiles” to whom Peter was writing. *Why does it make sense for Paul to begin this solemn charge to Timothy with a review of his own life and ministry of the gospel?*
2. What does the word “mentor” mean? Why is a good mentor important in a person’s life?
3. What do you learn about the strong mentoring relationship between Paul and Timothy from these New Testament texts: Acts 16:1; Phil 1:1; 1 Tim 1:2; 2 Tim 1:2,6?
4. Why is the grounding in and diligent study of Scripture (3:14-17) so critical to the life and service of a minister of the gospel?
5. Examine the various element of Paul’s solemn charge at 4:1-5. *Pray for Bob to be able to fulfill these functions faithfully for White Station.*

Video 3 – Serving Together as an “Everyday Church” / Luke 4:16-24

1. The role of a minister of the gospel is to lead a church into fields of faithful service – *not to do its praying, studying, and serving for it*. How did Jesus’ ministry reflect this important truth?
2. What were some of the distinctive features of a Jewish synagogue? How did its routine life and function differ from that of the Jerusalem Temple?
3. Did the earliest church more nearly resemble a *synagogue* or the *Temple*? What are some of the practical differences this would have made for the first- and second-century believers?
4. In what ways has the Christian church become more Temple-like (e.g., its distinction between clergy and laity) across the centuries? Why do you suppose that happened?
5. Martin Luther called churches to a more biblical model of a “priesthood of all believers.” What did he mean by that term? *Are you prepared to help implement this sort of church life at White Station? To help achieve the goal of “everyday church” for this congregation?*

Please commit yourself to daily prayer for Andrea, Bob, Julia, and Kathryn Turner between now and November 15, the official start date of Bob’s new role as Senior Minister at White Station.