



Session 3.3
The Preacher's
Devotions, Reading, and
Time Management

Devotions, Reading, and Time Management



Devotions, Reading, and Time Management

- Some of what Spurgeon accomplished
 - Spurgeon started preaching at 17 years old
 - By the time he turned 20, he had preached over 600 times
 - Spurgeon preached for 38 years and died at age 57
 - For much of his ministry, he weekly sermons were published in 20 different languages and sold 20,000 copies per week
 - His collected and published sermons fill 63 volumes and is the largest set of books ever published by a single author

Devotions, Reading, and Time Management

- Some of what Spurgeon accomplished
 - Edited a monthly magazine
 - Answered 500 letters per week
 - Read around six books each week, usually of substantial puritan theology
 - Founded and oversaw over 60 organizations
 - Had a pastor's college
 - Regularly counseled what he called difficult cases
 - Had a wife who was near invalid and twin sons

Devotions, Reading, and Time Management

- This can be encouraging to relieve a burden
 - Neither you nor I are a Spurgeon
 - So don't try to be Spurgeon

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- Spurgeon to his Pastor's College students
 - Gentlemen, I return to my rule — use your own natural voices. Do not be monkeys, but men; not parrots, but men of originality in all things. It is said that the most becoming way for a man to wear his beard is that in which it grows, for both in color and form it will suit his face. Your own modes of speech will be most in harmony with your methods of thought and your own personality. The mimic is for

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- Paul told Timothy he was responsible for himself
 - “Neglect not the gift that is in thee” (1 Ti 4:14)
 - “Stir up the gift of God, which is in thee” (2 Ti 1:6)
 - “Take heed unto thyself” (1 Ti 4:16)

1 Timothy 4:6-7

If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a **good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.**

But refuse profane and old

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- Paul's words to Timothy include two keys to being a good minister of Jesus Christ
 - Being nourished up in the words of faith and good doctrine
 - Exercising oneself unto godliness

Devotions, Reading, and Time Management

- To be well nourished means regular intake of proper food
- To exercise yourself means to train yourself, or discipline yourself

1 Timothy 4:6-7

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

And every man that striveth for the mastery is **temperate in all things**. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but

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- Practical Suggestions
 - Make the most of the time you have by being a plodder
 - Don't neglect your family
 - Understand who you are and don't try to be someone else
 - Diet and Exercise
 - Personal Finance and Debt
 - When preparing to preach, don't try to say everything