

December 20 Answers

- 1) In his letter to Titus, Paul charged him to **rebuke** sinful practices, **teach** godly living, and **model** Christlike character. Paul was especially forceful in his command to rebuke sin: “rebuke them sharply,” “they must be silenced,” “let no one disregard you,” and “insist on these things.” This teaches us that **sin** must not be tolerated in the church. Those in leadership are charged to **confront** believers for their sin, and believers are expected to **submit** to the rebuke of their leaders. Paul also repeatedly called for believers to be “**self-controlled**.” This teaches us that self-control is a fundamental characteristic of godly living. We are called to renounce all worldly passions and to **resist** the desires of the flesh. Paul also exhorted believers to good works, saying over and over again: “be a model of good works,” “be zealous for good works,” “be ready for every good work,” and “devote yourselves to good works.” This teaches us that we must be **busy** in the service of God’s Kingdom. We’re all prone to **laziness**, and we must fight this tendency by actively looking for ways to be fruitful in the work of the ministry.