January 6, 2019

**“Be The Guardian”**

***“…guard what God has entrusted to you…”***

***1 Timothy 6:20a***

 **“Be the Guardian of Your Faith”**

Chapter 1

***“Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked.” 1 Timothy 1:19***

1. **Paul, the guardian to Timothy…**

***“I am writing to Timothy, my true son in the faith.” Vs 2a***

1. Guardian: a defender, protector, or .
2. Paul was the spiritual of Timothy. This mentor/mentee relationship began very early. Timothy was about 17. Timothy was from Lystra with a mother and grandmother who taught him the O.T. Scriptures. Paul visited their hometown and met Timothy and his family.
3. Timothy had an excellent reputation and Paul wanted to take him along on his . (Acts 16)
4. Paul began equipping Timothy and engaging him in ministry in . (Acts 17)
5. Timothy worked with Paul and witnessed Paul’s and practices of ministry. (Acts 18)
6. Timothy establish churches in Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea. (Acts 16-17)
7. Timothy money from the Philippian church to Paul for his needs in Corinth.
8. Paul was in prison for years in Rome and Timothy stayed with him.
9. Timothy was with Paul for years until about 30 years of age. When Paul was released, they visited churches and stopped at Ephesus.
10. Paul charged Timothy with the work at Ephesus and this is where he wrote his first letter in A.D.
11. Six of Paul’s letters include Timothy in his greetings. Paul’s last dying wish was written to Timothy in his second letter in

 A.D.

1. According to Foxe’s Book of Martyrs, Timothy remained at Ephesus for years. Timothy was violently beaten by a wild mob of partygoers who were angry from Timothy’s rebuke for their immoral behavior. He died two days later.

***“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.” 2 Timothy 4:7***

1. **Guard the of your faith…**

***“These things only lead to meaningless speculations, which don’t help people live a life of faith in God. The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith.” Vs 4-5***

1. The highest priority is to live a life of in God.
2. The goal is that would be seen in all we do.
3. Maintain a heart in all of our dealings.
4. Operate with a conscience.
5. Keep a genuine that is evidenced to all.

***“But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of His great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in Him and receive eternal life.” Vs 16***

1. **God commissions of us to be the guardian…**

***“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do His work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve Him,” Vs 12***

1. God each of us to serve in ministry.
2. God each of us with the strength to serve in ministry.
3. The ministry is and not ours.
4. God’s is greater than our past and He will use us as He sees fit.

***“Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus.” Vs 14***

1. **Some have their faith…**
2. Avoid endless discussion, debates, and in your spiritual heritage.

***“Don’t let them waste their time in endless discussion of myths and spiritual pedigrees. These things only lead to meaningless speculations, which don’t help people live a life of faith in God.” Vs 4***

1. Avoid getting in your own self-interest and insincere faith.

***“The whole point of what we’re urging is simply love—love uncontaminated by self-interest and counterfeit faith, a life open to God. Those who fail to keep to this point soon wander off into cul-de-sacs of gossip. They set themselves up as experts on religious issues, but haven’t the remotest idea of what they’re holding forth with such imposing eloquence.” Vs 5-7 The Message***

1. Avoid conversations that are destructive rather than building one another .

***“It’s true that moral guidance and counsel need to be given, but the way you say it and to whom you say it are as important as what you say. It’s obvious, isn’t it, that the law code isn’t primarily for people who live responsibly, but for the irresponsible, who defy all authority, riding roughshod over God, life, sex, truth, whatever! They are contemptuous of this great Message I’ve been put in charge of by this great God.” Vs 8-11 The Message***

1. Avoid anything that would a clear conscience before God!

***“Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked. Hymenaeus and Alexander are two examples.” Vs 19-20a***

1. **Be the Guardian…**

***“…May they help you fight well in the Lord’s battles. Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear.” Vs 18b-19a***

1. Remember, it is the Lord’s battle…not yours! He will help you fight well.
2. Cling to your faith. Your everyday belief, that God is greater than any obstacle, is the faith you must hold onto!
3. Keep your conscience clear. Don’t allow sin, anger, bitterness, or distractions to keep you from experiencing the greatest joy you can find! Stay tuned to the Spirit and listen to His Voice!

***“So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.” Galatians 5:16-17***

***“Because of this, I always try to maintain a clear conscience before God and all people.” Acts 24:16***