

**“Be The Guardian”**

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

1 Timothy 6:20a

**“Be the Guardian of Your Life and Witness”**

Chapter 4

**“Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you.” 1 Timothy 4:16**

### **A. A life well spent remains on guard...**

*“Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons. These people are hypocrites and liars, and their consciences are dead. They will say it is wrong to be married and wrong to eat certain foods. But God created those foods to be eaten with thanks by faithful people who know the truth.” Vs 1-3*

1. Be on guard for false teaching. Vs 1
2. Be on guard for hypocrites. Vs 2
3. Be on guard for those who sideline to divide rather than unite. Vs 3
4. Be on guard for those wasting time on arguments and opinions. Vs 7

**“Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives’ tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly.” Vs 7**

### **B. A life well spent takes effort...**

*“Teach these things and insist that everyone learn them. Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young.” Vs 11-12a*

1. Train hard for godliness. Vs 8

*“Instead, train yourself to be godly. ‘Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come.’” Vs 7b-8*

2. Train hard for understanding. Vs 8
3. Train hard and struggle to keep focused. Vs 10
4. Train hard by using your spiritual gifts. Timothy’s gift was teaching. Paul would not let him sit back and not use it! Vs 14
  - a. Teach and insist on reading Scripture. Vs 13
  - b. Teach and insist on encouraging believers. Vs 13
  - c. Teach and insist on teaching disciples. Vs 13

**“You already know these things, dear friends. So be on guard; then you will not be carried away by the errors of these wicked people and lose your own secure footing.” 2 Peter 3:17**

### **C. A life well spent is a model for others to follow...**

*“Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity. Until I get there, focus on reading the Scriptures to the church, encouraging the believers, and teaching them.” Vs 12b-13*

1. Guard what you say. Vs 12

**“Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.” Ephesians 4:29**

*(Guard against name-calling, caustic sarcasm, profanity, ridicule, gossip, destructive criticism, angry words, complaining, lying, filthy talk, or dirty jokes!)*

*(Build in...encouragement, praise, appreciation, gratefulness, cheerfulness, understanding, sympathy, testimony, truth, caring, correction, warning, and helpful counseling)*

2. Guard the way you live. Vs 12  
*(Honesty, integrity, right priorities, right attitudes, kindness in how you treat people, and that Jesus is Lord of your life)*
3. Guard your love. Vs 12  
*(Self-sacrificing love, caring, unconditional love, a love for the least of these, and the model of 1 Corinthians 13 love)*
4. Guard your faith. Vs 12  
*(Faithfulness, reliability, trusting God will all that is in your life, and trusting God as He works. Be a man or woman of faith!)*
5. Guard your purity. Vs 12  
*(Moral purity means not only in your actions, but in your thoughts.)*

**“Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.” Proverbs 4:23**

### **D. A life fully invested will...**

*“Give your complete attention to these matters. Throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone will see your progress. Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you.” Vs 15-16*

1. Give complete attention to what really matters. Vs 15
2. Throw yourself into your work as a model for others. Vs15
3. Keep close watch on how you live. Vs 16
4. Keep close watch on what you teach. Vs 16
5. Stay true to what is right for your own benefit. Vs 16
6. Stay true to what is right – others are watching. Vs 16

**“So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded.” 1 Thessalonians 5:6**