

March 10, 2019

**“Be The Guardian”**

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

*1 Timothy 6:20a*

**“Be the Guardian During Difficult Times”**

*2 Timothy 3*

***“You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times.” 2 Timothy 3:1***

**A. “Be the Guardian,” as we are all going to face times of evil...**

*“You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times.” 2 Timothy 3:1*

1. In the last days, evil will increase and there will be those who leave the faith.

*“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.” 1 Timothy 4:1*

2. In the last days, the truth will be rejected and they will follow their own desires.

*“Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires.” 2 Peter 3:3*

3. In the last days, evil will increase with immorality and rejection of authority.

*“In the same way, these people—who claim authority from their dreams—live immoral lives, defy authority, and scoff at supernatural beings.” Jude 1:8*

**B. Be the Guardian of your personal faith journey, so that you will not be drawn off track...**

1. **“people will love only themselves”** (narcissistic)
2. **“and their money.”** (materialistic)
3. **“They will be boastful”** (with an inflated view of self)
4. **“and proud,”** (loving to draw attention to their accomplishments)
5. **“scoffing at God”** (wanting to be verbally hurtful)
6. **“disobedient to their parents”** (having a rebellious spirit)
7. **“ungrateful”** (assuming that they have a right to the things they get)
8. **“consider nothing sacred”** (indifferent to the attitudes and acts that reflect the value of Jesus)
9. **“unloving”** (unable to sympathize or empathize)

10. **“unforgiving”** (unwilling to forgive)
11. **“they will slander others”** (distorting what others say and do)
12. **“no self-control”** (a slave to their appetites)
13. **“cruel”** (dead to all tenderness)
14. **“hate what is good”** (unable to see and savor moral beauty)
15. **“betray their friends”** (breaking promises for their own advantage)
16. **“reckless”** (craving admiration for taking risks)
17. **“puffed up with pride”** (blind to the ugliness of self-preoccupation and the beauty of admiring others)
18. **“love pleasure rather than God”** (finding more satisfaction in physical excitement rather than in God’s approval)
19. **“act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly”** (using religion for personal gain without treasuring Christ above all)\*

***“Stay away from people like that!” 2 Timothy 3:5b***

**C. Guard against those who oppose the truth...**

***“These teachers oppose the truth just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses. They have depraved minds and a counterfeit faith.”***

***2 Timothy 3:8***

1. Keep a clear conscience as it will keep your spiritual eyes open to truth.

***“who are burdened with the guilt of sin and controlled by various desires.” 2 Timothy 3:6b***

2. Keep a clear understanding of truth and not fall deceptive to all the new teachings.

***“are forever following new teachings, but they are never able to understand the truth.” 2 Timothy 3:7b***

3. Keep alert to the truth and avoid the counterfeit.

***“These teachers oppose the truth just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses. They have depraved minds and a counterfeit faith.”***

***2 Timothy 3:8***

**D. The only way to guard your faith journey...**

***“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17***

1. Make sure the truth you are following is backed up by a lifestyle that matches the truth.

***“But you, Timothy, certainly know what I teach, and how I live, and what my purpose in life is.” Vs 10a***

2. Follow truth that demonstrates faith, patience, love, and endurance.

***“You know my faith, my patience, my love, and my endurance.” Vs 10b***

3. Realize we all will face persecution. Watch the lives of those who face trials and see how they respond.

***“Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” Vs 12***

4. Guard against those who are deceiving others and against self-deceit.

***“But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived.” Vs 13***

5. Stay faithful to the truth of Scripture.

***“But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you.” Vs 14***

6. Keep a clear conscience that God will lead you in the pathway of light!

***“God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work.” Vs 17***

*\*Letter B’s Greek translations are from John Piper*