

March 17, 2019

“Be The Guardian”

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

1 Timothy 6:20a

“Be the Guardian: Never Let Up!”

2 Timothy 4

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

A. Guard the calling God has given you...

“I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when He comes to set up His Kingdom” Vs 1

1. Use the spiritual gifts God has given you.

“Preach the word of God.” Vs 2

2. Always be ready to use your spiritual gifts no matter the timing.

“Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not.” Vs 2

3. God’s Word has been given as a measuring rod to assist in correction, rebuking, and encouraging.

“Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.” Vs 2

B. Be on guard as there are those who will not want to hear your words...

1. Step One: There are times when people will not want to listen to sound and wholesome teaching.

“For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching.” Vs 3

2. Step Two: There are times when people will just want to follow their own desires and will find those who will teach. Rather than fit their lifestyle to follow God’s Word, they will make God’s Word fit their lifestyle.

“They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.” Vs 3

3. Step Three: There are times when people will openly reject the truth and follow their own belief systems.

“They will reject the truth and chase after myths.” Vs 4

C. Be on guard as you share the Good News...

1. It will require a clear mind in every situation.

“But you should keep a clear mind in every situation.” Vs 5

2. It may require suffering for the Lord.

“Don’t be afraid of suffering for the Lord.” Vs 5

3. It will require a conscientious work on your part.

“Work at telling others the Good News...” Vs 5

4. It will require fully carrying the responsibility of sharing the Good News.

“...and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.” Vs 5

D. Guard all the details...

1. Paul had the need to see Timothy as soon as possible.

There are always going to be critical times in our lives when we need the encouragement of others.

“Timothy, please come as soon as you can.” Vs 9

2. Paul had the disappointment of losing a coworker in sharing the gospel. There will be times of great disappointment when we lose those we love in ministry.

“Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life and has gone to Thessalonica.” Vs 10

3. Paul’s ministry coworkers had moved on to other ministries. There are going to be times when you feel alone in your ministry.

“Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus has gone to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me.” Vs 10,11

4. Paul had the need for Mark to join him. There are times when “second chances” need to be extended and honestly evaluated.

“Bring Mark with you when you come, for he will be helpful to me in my ministry.” Vs 11

5. Paul’s travels required him to be easily mobile but his worldly possessions were minimal. We should always be aware of what is really important in our lives and what is unnecessary.

“When you come, be sure to bring the coat I left with Carpus at Troas. Also bring my books, and especially my papers.” Vs 13

6. Paul put out the warning of the damage that was done by Alexander. No matter how committed you are to serving the Lord, there will be those who will seek to do you harm, and may cause damage to the cause of Christ.

“Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm, but the Lord will judge him for what he has done.” Vs 14

7. When Paul faced the judge, everyone abandoned him. There are times when you will feel like you are the only one remaining faithful to serving God.

“The first time I was brought before the judge, no one came with me. Everyone abandoned me. May it not be counted against them.” Vs 16

8. Paul was reassured that the Lord was with him. You are never alone in following God. He is always with you! He will always deliver you!

“But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength so that I might preach the Good News in its entirety for all the Gentiles to hear. And He rescued me from certain death. Yes, and the Lord will deliver me from every evil attack and will bring me safely into His heavenly Kingdom.” Vs 17,18

E. Be the Guardian so that you finish strong...

1. As age continues, reflection becomes stronger. Keep focused on what you are doing for God as those are the only things that are eternal.

“As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near.” Vs 6

2. There is no greater compliment than to hear the words, “He has remained faithful!”

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.” Vs 7

3. God has a crown of righteousness for all of us who eagerly look forward to His appearing.

“And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to His appearing.” Vs 8

4. Don’t let any temptation keep you from finishing strong!

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.” Vs 7

New Series:

“I Am...”

“All that God promises to be for you!”

“God replied to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you.’” Exodus 3:14

March 24:

“I Am Here”

“God is always with you!”

“But Jesus spoke to them at once. ‘Don’t be afraid,’ He said. ‘Take courage. I am here!’” Matthew 14:27

March 31:

“I Am the Bread of Life”

“God will fill all your needs!”

“Jesus replied, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty.’” John 6:35

April 7:

“I Am the Light”

“God will bring brighter days!”

“Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, ‘I am the light of the world. If you follow Me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.’” John 8:12

April 14:

“I Am the Way, the Truth, the Life”

“God will guide your days!”

“Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me.’” John 14:6

April 21:

“I Am the Resurrection and the Life”

“God promises eternal life!”

“Jesus told her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after dying.’” John 11:25

April 28:

“I Am the Vine”

“God is your connection to relationships!”

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

May 5:

State of the Church

May 12:

“I Am the Good Shepherd”

“God will unconditionally love you!”

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices His life for the sheep.” John 10:11

May 19:

“I Am Alpha and Omega”

“God is in your past, your present and your future!”

“‘I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,’ says the Lord God. ‘I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.’” Revelation 1:8

May 26:

“I Am Coming Soon”

“God is sending His Son soon!”

“He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming soon!’ Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!” Revelation 22:20