

1 Timothy 6:20-21

Stand Guard!

O Timothy ...

I. Heed My Words

A. The Book

B. The Bookends

II. And Stand Firm

A. Guard the Gospel

B. Avoid Deadly Distractions

III. Faith is at Stake

A. The Word of Life

B. The Word for Living

... *the Lord bless you.*

Children, Listen ...

1. What does Paul want Timothy to protect?

2. Whose job is it to make sure the Bible is faithfully taught and preached in the church?

3. Write out the last four words Paul writes to Timothy

Entrusted

At the close of Paul's first letter to Timothy we find weighty words of final instruction. The responsibility of protecting the truth of God's Word from false teachers and influencers falls on the leaders in the church. The early church was threatened by persuasive individuals, some who would overtly challenge the Scriptures and others who were more subtle in their deception. Such attacks were not always from outside "the church," but were leveled by some who were within the bounds of the Christian community. One particular group were individuals who thought they "knew" things above and beyond Scripture, so most assuredly they knew far more than your common Gospel preacher. Ironically true preachers and true Christians actually "know" better than to add to or take away from what God has spoken and has recorded for us in His Word. Guarding the truth of the Gospel was critical to the early church for the sake of setting forth God's truth for faith and life. The same is true today, and while each believer must guard their hearts with the truth of God's Word, it is up to the leaders in Christ's church to ensure it is preserved, preached, and taught without equivocation.