

STAYING TRUE

Staying True: Guard your Life
Pastor Brent • September 1, 2019
1Tim 4:6-5:16; 6:11-16, 20-21

Guard the gospel by guarding your life.

I. **Train yourself for godliness. (4:6-10)**

- A. Train, don't just sit back.
- B. For godliness.
 - 1. Living God's way, by His standards.
 - 2. Live and serve for His glory.
 - 3. It always comes back to the gospel (4:10).
 - 4. Live with eternity in mind. (4:8)

II. **Devote yourself to the Word. (4:11-16)**

- A. Exemplary life precedes teaching. (4:12)
- B. Devote yourself to the Scriptures. (4:13)
- C. Immersed in knowing and practicing the Word. (4:15)
- D. Pay attention to your life and your teaching. (4:16)

III. **Fight for the faith. (6:11-16)**

- A. Flee and Pursue.
- B. Grasp – the eternal life to which you were called.
- C. Keep the commandment.
- D. Our returning Lord Jesus is Supreme!

How does this apply to me?

INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

STAYING TRUE: GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT

HISTORICAL TIMELINE:

As we read this section, we need to remember that Ephesus was both the economic gateway and engine for Asia. It was a financial center where opportunities for wealth were abundant. At the same time, it was a cosmopolitan city where philosophy and innovative thought thrived, nurtured by its diverse population and its proximity to Greece.

PASSAGE OVERVIEW:

Hearts easily fall prey to the lures of wealth and prosperity. The love of money, with all of its enticing empty promises, is the root cause of a multitude of evil patterns and practices. As Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." (Matthew 6:24)

There were some believers in Ephesus who merged their faith with their desire for economic prosperity. This unholy syncretism was the product of self-centered pride and conceit. They weren't content with knowing God and trusting Him. They wanted both God and money. The result was friction and controversy within the church. The Spirit of God calls them to repent of their idolatry. Real gain is to be found in godliness with contentment.

This is a major challenge for those of us who live in the wealthiest country on earth. False teachers still try to couple wealth with godliness. Many of us struggle with being truly content, whether we have material wealth or not.

Are you content? Is knowing Jesus and living for Him enough for you? How would you rate your level of contentedness? If you find you are not content, what is it that you long for that creates discontentedness?

READING FOR NEXT WEEK

1 Timothy 6:2-10

