

GUARDIANS

VOL.2

CRAIG REES • 19 MARCH 2023

PARTING WORDS

Big Idea: At the end of your life what you leave in loved ones will matter more than what you leave for them.

Key Scriptures: 2 Timothy 1:6-10; 4:1-8; Ephesians 5:1

Companion Guide link: CentralHolland.org/Current-Series

1. The fact that Paul spent so much time with Timothy, and then sent him two letters shows that developing people takes time. Likewise, it will take more than a day, more than a teaching series to build you into the man or woman of God you were called in Christ to be. God undertakes that work, however, because He wants you to develop others. With that in view:
 - a. Who has invested in you?
 - b. What did they do that was so impactful?
 - c. How are you developing yourself?
 - d. Who are you investing in?
2. Pastor Craig shared how the words 'know, be, live, and reproduce' capture Paul's message to Timothy. If you were to write parting words to those you love and have invested your life in, what words would capture your heart? Why?
3. This is a deeply personal but necessary question. Thinking about the words you chose, how do you live out these words right now? Is there a gap between what matters to you and what others experience to be

important to you? Why is that? What one step can you take this week to close that gap?

4. Read 2 Timothy 1:6-8. Timothy had gifts that Paul felt needed to be encouraged. Christians share a common understanding that while called to lead in some capacity, they are not “The Leader” but models of the maturing follower. God enables and empowers those He calls to leadership regardless of any natural ability, for He calls them to follow Christ first and foremost.
 - a. From what you know of Timothy, Paul, and Ephesus, what legitimate reasons would Timothy have had to struggle to use his gifts? What reasons do you have for not using yours?

 - b. From what Paul writes, God wants us to push beyond timidity. What can we do to live with power, love, and self-control?

5. Courage is not an outcome or a personality trait but a conscious act to gain or maintain a desirable, important, and relevant goal. If courage is not a personality trait, why do some people seem more courageous than others?

6. Read Ephesians 5:1. How does imitating Christ help us develop qualities that are not natural to us?