


**CREW LEADER GUIDE: TREASURE WORTH PROTECTING - LETTERS TO TIMOTHY PART 1**

**Message Summary:**
Drawing from 1 Timothy chapters 3, 4, and 6, the sermon explores the qualifications and character traits Paul outlines for church leaders, while making clear that these standards are not exclusive to those in formal ministry positions. Every believer, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, is called to reflect these qualities in daily life. The pastor emphasizes that godly character cannot be self-produced but flows from a surrendered heart continually refined by the Holy Spirit. The sermon challenges believers to move beyond passive Christianity, avoiding both sins of commission and sins of omission, while pursuing righteousness, sound doctrine, and faithful stewardship of the gospel entrusted to them.

**Key Points:**
- The qualifications Paul lists for church leaders in 1 Timothy 3 serve as a benchmark for all believers, not just those in formal leadership roles
- God judges the heart, not outward appearance, as illustrated in the anointing of David
- There are two categories of sin: sins of commission (doing what is wrong) and sins of omission (failing to do what is right), both of which grieve God
- Living above reproach means developing a consistent track record of integrity that is recognizable even to those outside the faith
- Godly leaders must be devoted spouses, temperate, self-controlled, hospitable, able to teach, free from addiction, gentle, and not driven by the love of money
- Leadership within the church requires proper timing and testing; placing someone in authority before they are ready can lead to destructive pride
- The gospel is the greatest gift ever entrusted to believers, and they bear responsibility to steward it through the ministry of reconciliation
- Believers must not engage with spiritual practices outside the Holy Spirit, including mediums or those who claim to speak to the dead
- Physical health has value, but godliness carries promise for both this life and the life to come
- The title of being a child of the Most High God surpasses every earthly title or position

**Key Scripture:**
- **1 Timothy 3:1-5** (qualifications for overseers)
- **1 Timothy 4:7-10 (training in godliness)**
- **1 Timothy 6:11-12** (the call to flee and pursue righteousness)
- **James 4:17** (sins of omission)
- **Psalm 139** (David's prayer for God to search his heart)
- **Ephesians 5** (husbands loving wives as Christ loved the church)
- **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** (rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances)
- **Acts 6** (the selection of deacons in the early church)
- **Deuteronomy 18:10-12** - Prohibition against mediums and communicating with the dead
- **Isaiah 44:6 / Exodus 20:3-4** - Idolatry warnings related to the spirit of mammon




**Discussion and Reflection**

1. Paul instructs Timothy that leaders must be above reproach and have a good reputation even with those outside the church. In what ways does your daily life outside of Christian community reflect or contradict the character qualities Paul describes?
2. The sermon draws a distinction between sins of commission and sins of omission, suggesting that knowing the right thing to do and refusing to do it is also sin. What areas of your life might the Holy Spirit be prompting you toward action that you have been quietly ignoring?
3. The pastor describes how the Holy Spirit will turn your shoulders in the right direction but will not move your feet for you. How does this understanding of the Spirit's role challenge or reshape the way you think about personal responsibility in your faith walk?
4. David's prayer in Psalm 139 asks God to search his heart and reveal hidden motivations. If you honestly invited God to examine the motivations behind your service, generosity, or leadership, what do you think He might uncover?
5. The sermon suggests that the gospel has been delegated to every believer as a ministry of reconciliation, much like an owner entrusting a task to someone else. In what ways are you taking genuine ownership of that responsibility, and where might you be going through the motions?
6. Paul tells Timothy not to let anyone look down on him because of his youth, and the sermon broadens this to include any characteristic others might use to diminish your calling. What labels or limitations have others placed on you that you may have allowed to silence your God-given purpose?
7. The sermon warns against engaging with mediums, myths, and spiritual practices outside of the Holy Spirit, arguing that all such influences are demonic in origin. How intentional are you about evaluating the spiritual content you consume through media and entertainment?
8. Paul closes his instruction by urging Timothy to watch both his life and his doctrine closely, arguing that where our doctrine goes, our life will follow. How are you actively guarding the theological foundations that shape the way you live, and what habits keep you grounded in sound teaching?

**Practical Challenge:**

*Here are a few ways to help activate key next steps this week:*

- **Examine your motivations.** Pick one area of your life — a relationship, a role at church, a habit — and honestly ask God to search your heart about why you do what you do. Journal what He reveals.
- **Address a sin of omission**. Identify one thing you know you should do that you have been avoiding — a conversation, an act of forgiveness, a step of generosity. Take that step this week.
- **Strengthen your doctrinal foundatio**n. Commit to reading one chapter of a pastoral epistle — 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, or Titus — each day this week. After each reading, ask yourself: What does this teach me about how I should live?
- **Pray Psalm 139 this week.** Use David's prayer as your own. Ask God to search your heart, reveal anxious thoughts, expose hurtful ways in you, and lead you in an everlasting way.
- **Practice hospitality**. Reach out to someone you do not know well and make a genuine effort to hear their story. Ask questions and listen without making the conversation about yourself.