



## **Courage & Calling of a Church Planter**

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### **Text: 1 Timothy 4**

*"Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times, some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons..."*

Chandler wants to encourage those who should be planting, and discourage those who shouldn't and would get killed by it. He sees a constant problem in planters not being courageous – and courage and calling is everything in dealing with the unregenerate in your church who devote themselves to errant and demonic teaching.

Week in and week out, a planter is engaging unregenerate sheep. They listen to him preach, they hear scripture, he has coffee with them. But they will depart from the faith and from the church. Furthermore, there are people in your midst who *aid* in the falling away of the sheep. In 1 Timothy 4, Paul teaches us two things we do to combat these wolves and unregenerate sheep.

### **Teach words of faith and good doctrine.**

Doctrine does not divide – except when not clearly upheld by leadership to those in the church. Those who are ashamed or weak in taking a stand in their doctrine invite division in their church. Paul writes, "If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Jesus Christ" (vs. 6). Teach good, clear doctrine and don't be ashamed of what the Bible says.

"Avoid irreverent, silly myths" (vs. 7) that have nothing to do with God and the Gospel. Devote yourself to the public reading of the scriptures, to exhortation, to teaching. Don't leave the Gospel behind. Furthermore, show what the scriptures command and hold your people to them with grace and compassion.

Devotion is key – don't get distracted from your call and command to teach and preach the gospel. Don't let technology or other ministries become distractions that water down your devotion. Don't lose focus on teaching with the "missional" fad.

### **Train yourself in godliness.**

Guarding your doctrine does not mean, necessarily, that you've guarded your life.

### **Train – make yourself sweat.**

Training is not pleasant; it requires work, discipline and persistence. Godliness does not accidentally happen – no one stumbles into it, and it doesn't happen because you're a good reader. "Train" involves sweat and effort. We toil and strive because we have our hope set on the living God.

### **We toil and strive because we have our hope set on the living God.**

Your church plant will be *your* sanctification. You need the mercy of Christ to burn all the wicked motivations out of your heart. Christ is your hope, your church is not. You will experience this through the weight, pain and suffering of church planting. Church planting is not sexy – it is death to self, and



**Your people are you.**

"Five years in, what you don't like about your church is what you don't like about you. What is true about your church is what is true about you." Your people are going to be you: they will flourish where you flourish and drown where you drown. Set for the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Drown yourself in doctrine and godly living and guard your life closely.

**Do not neglect the gift.**

You need to feed the things that stir your affections up for Jesus. Shun the things that rob those affections. It's not "what's right and what's wrong" as much as it is what spurs you towards Jesus.

*Guard your life closely, guard your doctrine closely. By doing so, you will save both yourself and your hearers. When you persist in godliness and doctrine, you will reveal unbelief in your hearers.*