

THE YOUNG
MINISTERS' FORUM

take

TO YOURSELF, YOUR DOCTRINE
AND YOUR MINISTRY

heed



*“Strengthening and equipping young
ministers to serve God’s purpose.”*

Copyright © 2025 Young Ministers' Forum
All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without prior written permission from the publisher, except for brief quotations in reviews, discussions, or teaching with proper attribution.

This document is produced as part of the Young Ministers' Forum initiative to equip and edify ministers for sound doctrine, effective ministry, and spiritual growth. The views expressed align with biblical teachings and the mission of the Forum.

For permissions, inquiries, or distribution requests,
contact +2348089440040 or send a mail to:
theyoungministersforum@gmail.com

Scripture quotations are taken from KJV unless otherwise noted.

Current Issue: February, 2025

ISSUE PAPER: TAKE HEED - TO YOURSELF, YOUR DOCTRINE & YOUR MINISTRY

"Before he could carry out his plans he died." This is a sad commentary about the life and ministry of Robert McCheyne. McCheyne was a preacher, a pastor, and a poet. He was known as a man of deep piety and prayer. He died at the age of 29. He said to his friend at his bedside, *"God gave me a message to deliver and a horse to ride. Alas, I killed the horse and now I cannot deliver the message."*

On this, Oswald Sanders said: *"It is possible to throw our lives away foolishly by burning the candle at both ends."* Robert Murray McCheyne, only thirty years old, lay dying. The horse he spoke about was, of course, his body. Christian ministers should accept it that their service will be costly if it is to be effective, but they should be careful not to kill the horse.

I remember studying occupational health at my postgraduate level, and I read a quote that has stuck with me ever since: *"A workman should be told something of the danger of the material with which they come into contact and not be left to find it out for themselves—sometimes at the cost of their lives."*

In the Young Ministers' Forum, we have come to see the word 'ministry' is not just for some, but for all saints. We have come to agree that God has called all saints to serve Him and He has called them to the ministry. Yes, some are called to leadership—visible expressions of leadership like what we often call the fivefold/fourfold ministries—but most importantly, we know that all who are saved are being equipped for ministry by those five fold (Ephesians 1:11-12).

Therefore, all saints must be trained and equipped to serve, or else they might serve at the cost of their lives. The occupational hazards of ministry must be properly taught—the nature of the material, the souls of men we deal with, the art of prayer, fulfilling our duties in the spread of the gospel, our daily life, and how it connects the gospel, our time as ministers, our family, marriage, work-life balance, devotion & fellowship with God etc. To do ministry we must pursue effectiveness, wisdom, and follow biblical orders and instructions.

McCheyne died probably because he failed in his own part of the equation of his health. We have seen that Paul gave certain instructions to some men in the ministry (especially young men) on what to pay attention to. Those words were written with verity and utmost sense of compelling voice.

"Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee." - 1 Timothy 4:16

"And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it." - Colossians 4:17

Meaning of 'Take Heed' in the Context of 1 Timothy 4:16

"Take heed" is from the Greek word "*epecho*", which means a compound word for "*on*" ("*grip*," "*epi*") and "*echo*" ("*to hold*," "*retain*"). i.e., to hold onto, to have a firm grip of one's life and mind, to focus/concentrate with full attention, to screw down your mind, fix the mind without distraction, limit your mind on yourself and your reading.

This is a call to discipline of the mind, a call for utmost concentration without distraction, a call for total undivided focus on what should be prioritized by a minister!

"Perhaps the more strategic and fruitful work of Christian workers is to help leaders of tomorrow develop their spiritual potential. This task requires careful thought, wise planning, endless patience, and genuine Christian love. It cannot be haphazard or ill conceived. Our Lord devoted the greater part of His three years of ministry to molding the characters and spirits of His disciples. Paul showed the same concern for training young Timothy and Titus. Paul's method for preparing Timothy for the church in Ephesus is deeply instructive. Timothy was about twenty years old when Paul became his friend. Timothy tended toward despondency, and he was too tolerant of and partial to people of rank. He could be irritable with opponents. He was apt to rely on old spiritual experiences rather than kindle the flame of daily devotion. But Paul had high hopes for him. Paul set about to correct Timothy's timid nature, to replace softness with steel. Paul led Timothy into experiences and hardships that toughened his character. Paul did not hesitate to assign him tasks beyond his present powers. How else can a young person develop competence and confidence if not by stretching to try the impossible? Traveling with Paul brought Timothy into contact with men of stature whose characters kindled in him a wholesome ambition to serve Christ. He learned from his mentor to triumphantly meet the crises that Paul considered routine. Paul shared with Timothy the work of preaching. Paul gave him the responsibility of establishing a group of Christians at Thessalonica. Paul's exacting standards, high expectations, and heavy demands brought out the best in Timothy, saving him from a life of mediocrity as a leader. " - Oswald Sanders

What Paul instructed Paul to hold on to, to focus on, what should be largely taken note of and observe.

“Unto Thyself”

The first priority of a minister is himself. But what should his focus be? What should demand his full attention? What does it mean to pay attention to oneself? Paul speaks to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:7, saying, *"Refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness."*

This verse provides insight into what is required of Timothy. He must train himself in godliness and reject profane thoughts and philosophies. In other words, he must guard his heart against corrupt influences—godless ideologies, unsacred discussions, unholy content, impure speech, misleading media, worldly entertainment, human mockery, and anything that pollutes the soul.

It seems that during this time, there were many circulating myths among the Jews—fables about food and drink, fabricated stories, religious ignorance, foolish speculations, and baseless conclusions (1 Timothy 1:4; 2 Timothy 4:14; Titus 1:14; 2 Peter 1:16).

Taking heed to oneself begins with discernment—what one watches, listens to, and consumes. It involves guarding one's time and attention. The word *"profane"* reminds me of Esau, who was described as a profane man—a man who despised his birthright, rejected the blessing for temporary satisfaction, and married wives outside the covenant.

A minister must be careful not to become profane—not to become common or distracted by things that weaken his devotion and defile his heart.

A young minister must first see himself as a **holy man with a holy calling**—salvation first, then ministry. Therefore, he must refuse to entertain anything that destroys rather than edifies his life. **Remaining free from defilement will make him effective.** He is called to reject, renounce, and refuse all that is unholy.

Exercise Thyself

Don't forget: "*Take heed to thyself*" and "*Exercise thyself*."

What Does It Mean To Exercise Oneself?

The word *exercise* comes from the same root as the word *gymnasium*. However, in this context, it is not about physical training but about training the soul and spirit to be fit and healthy. This requires **utmost concentration, time, discipline, systematic and ordered living, and consistency**.

Paul instructed Timothy that, instead of indulging in spiritual "junk food" and accumulating excess weight, he should *exercise himself*—that is, train himself to be spiritually fit and healthy.

This is what a minister must prioritize—**training to be fit, training to be wholesome, training to be godly**.

Godliness vs. Profane Living

Take note of the word *godliness* as the direct opposite of *profane*.

To be **profane** is to despise what is godly or sacred. Paul's exhortation is clear: **rather than entangle yourself with profane things, devote yourself to the things of God—things that will shape you to live as God desires**.

Get into the school of the Spirit. Engage in spiritual disciplines.

Discipline Yourself for the Purpose of Godliness

As a young minister, your first concern should be to embrace **practices that cultivate godliness**—practices that keep your heart pure and foster

godliness. Anyone who trains for the Olympics visualizes the purpose before starting. He commits himself to a life of discipline long before stepping onto the podium.

Consider Michael Phelps, the most decorated athlete in Olympic history with 28 medals, including 23 golds. His greatness was not accidental—it was the result of years of rigorous training, self-discipline, and unwavering commitment. From the age of 11, he trained under Bob Bowman, spending **5–6 hours in the pool daily, swimming 13 km a day—80,000 meters every week**. He also dedicated **1–2 hours each day to dryland workouts**, including weightlifting, running, and core exercises.

Beyond physical training, **Phelps mastered mental discipline**. He trained his mind through *visualization techniques*, rehearsing every stroke, turn, and finish in his mind long before the actual race. His coach, Bob Bowman, instilled in him a mindset of visualization. Every night before bed, **Phelps would close his eyes and mentally walk through his race, stroke by stroke**. He would visualize the **best and worst-case scenarios**, preparing himself for every possible challenge.

"Any small thing that could go wrong, I am ready for," he once said.

His coach noted: *"By the time Michael gets up on the blocks to swim in the World Championships or Olympics, he's already swum that race hundreds of times in his mind before he gets up there."*

Mental Rehearsal and Spiritual Readiness

Phelps' visualization technique trained his mind to be **disciplined, focused, and fully committed**. Likewise, a young minister must **mentally and spiritually prepare** for the challenges of his calling. He must visualize

himself walking in godliness, **anticipating the battles, overcoming temptations, and setting his heart steadfastly on Christ.** Just as an athlete disciplines their body for victory, a minister must **discipline himself for the purpose of godliness.**

How This Discipline Paid Off: The 2008 Olympics

This discipline became evident during the 200-meter butterfly race at the **2008 Beijing Olympics.** Halfway through the race, **Michael Phelps'** goggles filled with water, leaving him completely blind. However, because he had trained with such precision, he counted his strokes and executed his turns exactly as planned. Despite not seeing a thing, he touched the wall first and won the gold medal.

The Power of Vision and Discipline

Phelps' vision of victory and his mental rehearsal of every possible challenge helped him push through and achieve his goal. His success wasn't just about physical training—it was also about mental preparation and discipline. Just as Phelps had a clear vision of his victory, we too must have a vision for godliness and commit ourselves to it. Just as **Michael Phelps** was called to an Olympic victory, we have been **called according to purpose**—to serve **God's pleasure. Never forget that!**

2 Timothy 1:9 says: *"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."*

You have been called to be **holy**—fully separated and consecrated to God in **thoughts, actions, and endeavors.**

1 Peter 1:15-16 reminds us: *"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."*

God has called us to see multitudes saved, to be **disciplined and steadfast**, and to contribute to the growth of His body.

He has called us to live in **the fullness of the stature of Christ (Ephesians 4:12-13)**, to represent His interests in the world, and to be **salt and light (Matthew 5:13-14)**. Yes, He has called us to **holiness, servanthood, and influence**. But we cannot truly embody these things unless we **exercise ourselves unto godliness (1 Timothy 4:7-8)**.

Fixing Our Eyes on the Ultimate Prize

Just as Phelps focused on touching the wall first and being crowned, we must set our minds on **God's ultimate prize**—a life that reflects His effectiveness and presence now, and a reward that will be consummated in the age to come.

Paul speaks of this in **Philippians 3:13-14**: *"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."*

Spiritual Discipline and the Christian Race

In **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**, Paul compares the Christian life to an athlete running to win the prize: *"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection:*

lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

Paul emphasizes the importance of a **disciplined life**, keeping his body under control, so that, like an athlete who trains to avoid disqualification, he too would not be disqualified from the prize by failing to stay the course.

The Discipline of Godliness

In the Olympics, athletes follow **strict schedules and diet regimens**, all for a fleeting moment of victory. **How much more, then, should we embrace a life of greater discipline, knowing that our prize is eternal?**

1 Timothy 4:8 says: *"For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."*

If we are to truly press toward our calling, we must commit ourselves to right practices that will make us radically godly and God-focused.

Athletes often devote their youthful years to intense training. This teaches us a valuable lesson: It is easier to develop a lifestyle of discipline while young. A young believer must: Keep his eyes on the goal of spiritual growth (2 Peter 3:18), Know the Lord deeply (Jeremiah 9:23-24), Love the Lord passionately (Deuteronomy 6:5) and Serve the Lord diligently (Romans 12:11).

Training for Righteousness

We need to be trained daily in righteousness: Give yourself to daily systematic reading, Studying and practicing the Word (Joshua 1:8; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). Commit yourself to praying steadfastly, routinely and consistently (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Dedicate yourself to fasting (Matthew 6:16-18).

The Futile Labor

Many young people today **lose sight of purpose** while engaging in spiritual practices. They focus wrongly, like the **Pharisees**, who prayed without effect.

Matthew 6:5 warns: *"And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward."*

So many pursue spiritual disciplines, but **not for the purpose of godliness**. They beat the air aimlessly, running without direction.

Isaiah 29:13 captures this well: *"Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men."*

What is the essence of quiet time without transformation/walking in love, what is the essence of studying the kenosis of Christ without humility? What is the essence of learning apologetics without winning souls? What is the essence of loud prayers without being centered on God's mission for the earth? What is the essence of attending meetings without smart action plans that lead to growth and transformation? What is the essence of listening to loads of messages without getting to know God better and better? What is the essence of theology without sacrifice, consecration, and obedience? I would prefer to be a friend of a soul-winner with the simple message of the Gospel than a highly intellectual theologian who cannot win a soul.

What's the Lesson? *"Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness."*

This is the path to ever increasing glory. Give attention to training that will make you fit in all respects.

A Young Minister's Priority

A young minister must **prioritize his life**:

- He grows by the Word.
- He feeds on the Word.
- He commits himself entirely to the right course.

Paul declared in **Philippians 3:13-14**: *"This one thing I do... forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."*

This must be the practice of every saint:

- Forgetting what is behind.
- Reaching for the fullness of God's purpose.

Paul knew why **Christ apprehended him**, so he focused on **one thing—pressing toward the mark**.

Be an Exemplary Leader – 1 Timothy 4:12

In taking heed to himself, Timothy was also encouraged by Paul to be an **exemplary leader**. He was called to lead—not by age, but by **setting the pace** and leading the way. Many young ministers **correct older leaders** yet fail to be examples themselves.

Timothy was a **young minister**, but he was **called by God to lead**. To develop his leadership ability, Paul challenged him to **be bold and not allow anyone to despise his youth**. Instead, he was to **prove himself an example**. The Greek word for **example** means: a **stamp, a scar, shape, a print, a dye or a pattern**.

Paul was saying: *"Be a dye!"* **Soak others in your life so they carry the imprint of what you stand for.** A **life of impact** is one that leaves an imprint on others. Live a life that **touches people even after you are gone.** This comes not by your preaching first but by leading the way, walking on the paths of righteousness, embodying biblical values, being a man of godly standards, being a model of wisdom, justice and equity, being a who has become an emblem of the scriptures in heart and in attitude. What do you stand for in your home, work and the society at large? Are you living a life of impact?

Paul Mentioned Six Aspects of Example

1. **Word** – In speech (love and wisdom).
2. **Conversation** – In conduct.
3. **Charity** – In demonstration of love (love walk).
4. **Spirit** – In Zeal, passion, enthusiasm and devotion .
5. **Faith** – Faith as trust in God / Faith as what we believe as biblical.
6. **Purity** – Keeping oneself from defilement (sins of the flesh and spirit).

To **"take heed to himself"** means ensuring that he **lives a life worth emulating and following.**

Taking heed means:

- Living a life that does not contradict the gospel.
- Paying attention to one's spiritual **growth and purity.**

Taking Heed to Cultivating Gifts and Giftings

Focusing or taking heed to oneself **also means paying attention to cultivating one's gifts**. In the context of 1Tim 4:16, the pretext also says:

1 Timothy 4:14 *"Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."* A major aspect of taking heed to oneself is not neglecting the gift within. Paul told Timothy not to neglect the miraculous faculties, supernatural endowments, and divine outworking of God through him for the profiting of the Kingdom. These gifts are often in potential form—not yet visible, but present. The secret to their activation is not to neglect them but to stir them up.

A Call to Cultivate the Inner Fire

This season, we are called to **know and cultivate God's inner fire within our spirit**. Since Paul likened these gifts to **fire that can be stirred**, this means:

- The gifts function as supernatural passion.
- They must be stirred, fanned into flame, and wholly engaged.
- A spark must be cultivated into a great fire.

Many have **not cultivated the flame of God** in their lives, and as a result, they are not profiting from it.

2 Timothy 1:6 – *"Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands."*

Doing the Will of God

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 speaks of the **diverse gifts of the Spirit**—gifts of:

- Knowledge of mysteries.
- Faith that moves mountains.
- Wisdom.
- Healing.
- Miracles
- Prophecy
- Tongues/Interpretation
- Discerning of Spirit

Looking at these manifestations, it's obvious that they display God's glory, His attributes of mercy, Omnipotence, Omniscience and others. These are **God's attributes expressed through man** to fulfil **divine purpose**.

Prophecy, Gifts, and Vision

Paul mentions **prophecy and gifts** in the same verse, indicating that:

- Gifts come with **prophetic direction** on what to do.
- Vision **must be nurtured**—we must take heed to the **visions we receive for the gifts to be harnessed**.
- Passion for **God's purposes** must be **stirred and engaged fully**.

Paying Full Attention to Growth

When we give full attention to our **spiritual gifts**, growth follows.

We must grow in:

- **Mind faculty:** Renewing the mind with the Word (**Romans 12:2**).
- **Soul faculty:** Keeping our emotions and desires aligned with God (**Psalm 19:14**).
- **Spiritual faculty:** Developing discernment and spiritual depth (**Hebrews 5:14**).

Guard Your Heart – Keep the Fire Burning

Proverbs 4:23 *"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."*

Samson's life is the tragic story of a man who never guarded his heart. A man without self-control is like a city without walls—open to all shades of evil.

Proverbs 25:28 *"He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls."*

Sinful and careless living killed Samson's inner fire, blurred his vision, and stripped him of his strength. When a man called by God becomes careless, when there are no boundaries in his life, the walls of his consecration begin to collapse.

Walls don't fall in a day—they crumble gradually, as convictions are compromised, as sacred lines are erased, as a man yields, inch by inch, to things that defile. Loose living will quench fire!

1 Thessalonians 5:19 *"Quench not the Spirit."*

Samson had no discipline in his associations. He could not separate friends from foes. The very people he was sent to destroy became his confidants and romantic partners.

A careless man is unfit for holy purpose.

2 Timothy 2:21 *"If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."*

A holy vessel is a mighty vessel in the hands of God! Guilt shatters confidence in the gospel. Guilt kills passion. But living right keeps you on the path of usefulness!

Guard your heart in all your keepings. Watch over your walls—let them not be broken down! Shut your eyes from what defiles thoughts. Yes, the gifts are there, but give attention to what develops them. Let your mind be a holy vessel for the revelatory gifts. Let your will be strong and sharp for the power gifts. Let your heart burn with fire for the inspirational gifts.

Keep yourself fit for the flow of God's Spirit!

Romans 12:11 *"Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord."*

Yes! Keep your heart hot for the move of the Holy Ghost! Keep your mouth filled with God's Word for His authority to be expressed through you. Keep your mind engaged in holy contemplation for heavenly revelation!

Wait on God! Wait on God! Be renewed in strength!

Isaiah 40:31 *"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."*

There is a calling to be at the cutting edge of what God is doing. Do not be disqualified, young man! Young woman!

1 Corinthians 9:27 *"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."*

Do not become history while God is granting spiritual breakthroughs in your day! Dare to be a Caleb! Dare to be a Joshua!

Numbers 14:24 *"But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it."*

Others may compromise—choose not to! Be disciplined! Keep your house in order! Let God use you! Come out of unholy communion! Get on the Word of God—let it dwell in you richly!

Colossians 3:16 *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."*

Find friends who celebrate the things of God and stay with them!

Proverbs 13:20 *"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."*

You want great faith? Surround yourself with men of faith! I am iron—wood cannot be my friend! I am fire—water is my enemy!

I will stand at the cutting edge of God's move in the space He has allotted me!

Cry out to God! I will not be disqualified!

Friends, these are the last of the labour days. Let none say, "I am fearful!" Let none say, "I am distracted!" Banish excuses from your heart! Banish compromise today! Banish slothfulness that leads to spiritual poverty!

Proverbs 24:33-34 *"Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man."*

In the days when men of valor gather the spoils of war, I will not be on my bed!
I will cultivate this inner emblem of fire! I will give deep contemplations to
heavenly visions! It shall be done!

Pray! I will not be lost! Pray! I will not be double-minded!

James 1:8 *"A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."*

Father, strengthen my heart!

Daniel and his friends were not the only princes in Babylon, but they
purposed in their hearts and became custodians of divine mysteries!

Daniel 1:8 *"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."*

Lord, have mercy on me! Where I have fallen, where I have compromised,
where I have broken the walls—I return to You!

Holy brothers and sisters, God is moving in our nations!

Is your heart perfect toward Him?

2 Chronicles 16:9 *"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him."*

Do you still have searchings and doubts, like some did in the time of Deborah?

But Deborah arose, though in a patriarchal society! Other tribes arose! Jael
arose! Yet some remained on their beds in the day that God was moving! Like
David, they serve their pleasures when God is giving men burdens!

Psalm 119:37 *"Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way."*

Oh! We will not be blind! We will not be foolish! Oh God, come! Fill our hearts, our thoughts, our minds! Spirit of God, set us on fire! Set our lives in order! We are gathered—saints who have made a vow with You by sacrifice! We will quit ourselves like men—for ourselves, and for the city of God!

2 Samuel 10:12 *"Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the Lord do that which seemeth him good."*

Make us bold and courageous! Make us daring! Break new frontiers for the gospel through us! Start the work now!

Visions Come with Sparks – They Must Be Developed

A vision starts as a spark, but it must be cultivated into a fire.

- Those great fires we see often start as small sparks.
- If we do not fan them into flames, they remain dormant.
- Paying full attention to gifting and vision results in growth and maturity.

Habakkuk 2:2-3 *"Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."*

Stewarding the Body for God's Purpose

As believers, and especially as ministers, we must take care of ourselves in every aspect—spiritually **and even physically**. Our physical bodies play a

crucial role in fulfilling God's purpose. Paul instructed Timothy concerning his health, telling him to take a little wine for his stomach's sake (1 Timothy 5:23). This shows that what we consume matters as ministers. The body is the vessel that carries the spiritual deposit, and if the vessel is not well taken care of, the spiritual assignment can be hindered.

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." - 2 Corinthians 4:7 KJV

Our bodies are the earthen vessels through which God's power flows, making them instrumental in our calling.

1. Presenting the Body as a Living Sacrifice: The Bible instructs us to offer our bodies to God: *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."* - Romans 12:1 KJV

This means our bodies must be consecrated—kept pure, healthy, and fit for spiritual service. Defilement through fornication, adultery, uncleanness, and any impurity affects not only the body but also our spiritual effectiveness.

"Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." - 1 Corinthians 6:18 KJV

Our bodies belong to God, and we must treat them with the reverence and care due to His temple: *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" - 1 Corinthians 6:19 KJV*

2. Taking Care of the Body - Health and Diet: Stewarding the body includes maintaining good health through discipline in diet, fasting, rest, and self-control. Paul, in instructing Timothy about what to consume and what

not to consume, gives us a principle: Ministers should be mindful of their physical well-being because a weak body can hinder spiritual work.

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." - 1 Corinthians 10:31 KJV

Daniel demonstrated this when he refused to defile himself with the king's food, choosing a disciplined diet that made him and his friends healthier and more spiritually sharp: *"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank..." - Daniel 1:8 KJV*

This means:

We must eat right for strength and endurance (Ecclesiastes 10:17).

We must fast for spiritual discipline and sensitivity (Matthew 6:16-18).

We must rest when necessary (Mark 6:31).

3. Keeping the Body in Subjection: Paul emphasized that discipline over the body is crucial for lasting impact in ministry: *"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." - 1 Corinthians 9:27 KJV*

This means our bodies must not control us—instead, we must train them through:

- Fasting to weaken the flesh and sharpen the spirit.
- Self-control in pleasures and indulgences.
- Moderation in all things.

A minister's body is not for reckless living but for the work of God.

4. Consecrating Every Part of Our Body: Every part of our body must be dedicated for God's use. Our mouths must speak edifying words, our hands must do righteous works, and our feet must carry us to fulfill God's assignments.

The old hymn captures this well:

*"Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee."*

A believer's disposition should be:

"I give you my spirit, soul, and body for your use."

In summary:

To be effective in ministry, we must take care of our bodies. This means:

- 1. Keeping it holy—fleeing fornication and impurity.*
- 2. Maintaining health—eating right, fasting, and exercising discipline.*
- 3. Training it for endurance—keeping it under control for longevity in ministry.*
- 4. Consecrating it for God's use—offering every part to Him.*

By doing this, we ensure that our bodies remain fit vessels through which God's power flows, allowing us to serve Him effectively and for a long time.

Take Heed to Your Doctrine: Holding Fast to Sound Teaching

Paul's charge to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:16—*"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine"*—was more than just a personal exhortation. It was a call to guard,

preserve, and faithfully transmit the truth in an era of rampant false teachings. Timothy, leading in Ephesus, faced doctrinal confusion similar to what we see today. His time was marked by Gnosticism, denial of Christ's incarnation, heresies about the resurrection, and legalistic distortions of the Gospel. Paul's instruction remains relevant: *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears."* - 2 Timothy 4:3 KJV

Timothy faced several doctrinal challenges in his ministry, especially as a young leader overseeing the church in Ephesus. Paul's letters to him (1 & 2 Timothy) highlight these challenges and provide instructions on how to handle them. Timothy had to deal with false teachers who were spreading erroneous doctrines within the church. Paul warned: *"As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine."* - 1 Timothy 1:3

These false teachers promoted speculative ideas rather than sound doctrine, leading believers astray. Here are some of the doctrines they promoted:

1. Myths, Genealogies, and Speculations: Certain individuals in the church were obsessed with myths and endless genealogies, which distracted from the gospel.

"Nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith." - 1 Timothy 1:4

This likely included Jewish myths and mystical interpretations that added unnecessary complexity to the gospel. Likely promoting extra biblical writings, unrealistic supernatural experiences, false visitation of angelic beings etc. We must be careful of speculative teachings not founded upon the scriptures.

2. Legalism and Misuse of the Law: Some were teaching that believers must follow the Mosaic Law for salvation, contradicting the gospel of grace. Paul clarified: *“But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully.”* - 1 Timothy 1:8). Legalists were twisting the law, emphasizing works-based righteousness instead of faith in Christ.

3. Asceticism and Forbidding Marriage: Some false teachers promoted extreme self-denial, forbidding marriage and restricting certain foods as a path to holiness because of angels they have encountered or visions they have seen. Paul refuted this: *“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods.”*- 1 Timothy 4:1-3

True godliness is not found in self-imposed restrictions but in faith in Christ. Paul spoke about this to the Colossians: *Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.* - *Colossians 2:18-23 ESV*

4. Gnosticism and the Denial of Christ’s Deity and Humanity: Early forms of Gnosticism were creeping into the church, denying key truths about Jesus, particularly His humanity. Paul emphasized Christ’s true nature: *“And*

without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh.” - 1 Timothy 3:16

Denying Christ’s humanity and Deity was a serious doctrinal error Timothy had to confront. Christ is God who took on flesh to redeem man. He is 100 percent God and 100 percent man.

5. Prosperity and Greed-Driven Teachings: Some false teachers were motivated by greed, using godliness as a means of financial gain. Paul strongly condemned this: *“If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. But godliness with contentment is great gain,” - 1 Timothy 6:3-6 ESV*

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness.” - 1 Timothy 6:10

Timothy was to teach contentment and warn against materialistic distortions of the gospel. Some taught things Jesus never taught, using the faith as a means to promote greed and covetousness, leading many to depart from the faith. While specific individuals are not mentioned in this passage, we can consider examples like **Demas**, who abandoned the ministry because he loved the world (**2 Timothy 4:10**); **Balaam**, whose way is described as pursuing ministry for the sake of financial gain and iniquity (**2 Peter 2:15**; **Jude 1:11**); and the **Laodicean church**, which falsely equated spiritual prosperity with material wealth (**Revelation 3:17**). Such distortions of the gospel are deceptive and contrary to the truth. Greed doesn’t mean you teach “prosperity gospel”, it is first a heart matter.

6. The Resurrection Being Overthrown: Some were teaching that the resurrection had already happened, confusing believers. Paul addressed this directly: *“And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.”* - 2 Timothy 2:17-18

Timothy had to uphold the correct teaching of **bodily resurrection at Christ’s return**, a doctrine that was also being challenged among the Corinthians. This error reflects an **overrealized eschatology**—the mistaken belief that everything Christ came to accomplish is confined to this present world, leaving no expectation for what is to come.

However, **our hope extends beyond this life**; what awaits us in Christ’s return far surpasses any earthly experience. Paul addressed this issue directly in **1 Corinthians 15:12-14**: *“Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.”*

Romans 8:18 *“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”*

Our faith does not end with this world—our hope is anchored in Christ’s return and the resurrection to come.

God’s Expectation from Timothy

Many people preferred teachings that suited their desires rather than sound doctrine. Same is going on in our days. Paul warned: *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires,*

because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers.” - 2 Timothy 4:3

Timothy was to preach the word faithfully, even when it was unpopular.

Paul charged Timothy: *“O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge.” - 1 Timothy 6:20*

Timothy’s task was not easy. He had to correct false doctrine, refute heresies, maintain the integrity of the gospel, and strengthen the church in a hostile culture. These battles are still relevant today, we must not just nurture our faith but ensure we guard the truth of God’s word and we must hold fast to sound doctrine and remain faithful to the gospel. Paul urged Timothy to remain steadfast in the truth: *“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them.” - 2 Timothy 3:14 KJV*

This passage highlights three key aspects of true doctrine:

1. True doctrine is not novel—It is not something new or trendy; it has been tested over time. Timothy learnt it from Paul and was only to continue therein.

2. True doctrine has roots—It is grounded in Scripture and upheld in Christian history. **2 Timothy 3:15-17** *“and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”*

3. True doctrine is entrusted to faithful men—It is meant to be passed down (2 Timothy 2:2). Men who will not adulterate it, men who will preserve it.

False doctrine, in contrast, often thrives on novelty—new, strange teachings that lack a biblical and historical foundation.

Just as in Timothy's day, false doctrines continue to spread today:

Prosperity Gospel—Redefining faith as a means to wealth rather than a call to godliness.

Progressive Revelation—Undermining biblical authority and denying core Christian truths.

Moral Relativism—Rejecting absolute truth in favor of subjective morality.

Legalism vs. Hyper-Grace—Either reducing salvation to works or dismissing holiness altogether.

Many believers today rely on social media, YouTube, and popular trends for theology instead of grounding themselves in Scripture. This is dangerous. We must return to the Bible as the final authority.

The Authority of Scripture: The Foundation of Doctrine

Before reading theological books, we must know the Bible itself. Scripture is the foundation of all sound doctrine: *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."* - 2 Timothy 3:16 KJV

Before Delving Into The Teaching Of *"Doctrines"*, **Personal Reflections on the Perils of Superficial Theology in Modern Ministry.**

Dear Young man,

Before proclaiming the anointing to teach, before declaring a calling to correct the body of Christ, before correcting elders and debunking traditions.

Perhaps we should take a moment to calm ourselves.

Desiring to be a Bishop is indeed noble (but remember: *"Seekest thou great things for THYSELF, seek them not"*). However, never forget that it comes with standards and qualities, one of which is the ability to Teach. A sound teacher is not impulsive, is not overly talkative, and is not a mere showman!

Don't rush into watching YouTube videos first, seeking knowledge to puff up your ego and bolster your reputation. Don't start teaching the book you are just reading.

First and foremost, let's establish a solid foundation.

Begin by reading your Bible. A Father in the faith once said that if you haven't read your Bible through at least twice, you can't claim to be a teacher. Read your Bible, not through the lens of a rigid systematic theology, not even with commentaries initially, and certainly not through the filter of social media commentators—so-called teachers of the body of Christ. Please, read your Bible cover to cover. Do it continuously! The Bible is the main deal.

Then, progress to honest and faithful exegesis—a straightforward term meaning *"drawing out meaning from a text."* It involves explaining the biblical text according to the author's intent, striving for the God-ordained meaning of every Bible text. The goal is not to read into or beneath the author's intent but to attain precision. The aim is to discern the author's mind and what they intended their original readers to comprehend. It's not about discovering new revelations but rather grasping the text as intended by the author.

To achieve this precision, please proceed with the following steps:

1. Understand Textual Criticism: Scholars work diligently to recover the original wording of the text, including its starting and ending points as intended by the writer. Textual criticism is a method used to determine the

content of the original manuscripts. While the original manuscripts of the Bible may be lost, concealed, or no longer exist, tens of thousands of copies endure. Our goal in exegesis is to uncover what these original manuscripts genuinely conveyed. This forms the basis for your choice of versions of the Bible.

2. Choice of Bible Version: This step is critical for Bible users. The Bible version you select significantly influences your understanding. I recommend commencing with literal equivalent translations such as ASV, ESV, KJV, NKJV, RSV, and AMP. These versions offer word-for-word translations of the manuscripts. Dynamic equivalent translations like NLT, GNT, and CEV communicate the core message using contemporary language. The NIV falls between dynamic and literal equivalents. It's essential to note that paraphrases should be approached cautiously, as they include the author's comments and interpretations (examples include TLB).

3. Reading Sequence: For optimal results, follow this sequence: commence by reading your Bible while comparing the literal translations, then explore the mid-range translations, followed by dynamic equivalents, and finally, paraphrases. Utilizing various Bible versions guards against eisegesis, ensuring you remain faithful to the God-ordained intent. This is a vital part of sound interpretation. Relying solely on one translation for your doctrinal stance can limit your understanding.

4. Philology: This entails studying the language, grammar, and style of the text with utmost precision. It means delving into the original languages of the Bible—Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Analyze each word, idiom, and figure of speech. However, be cautious of the *"root word fallacy,"* as D. A. Carson termed it. Relying solely on the root word to determine a word's meaning may lead to significant errors. Always consider the context in which words are employed. This leads us to:

5. Grammar-Historical Interpretation: This step involves examining the context, including the relationships between words forming clauses and phrases, and comprehending how sentences and paragraphs interrelate. Additionally, delve into the historical background and context. Gain insights into the customs, manners, and perspectives of the time concerning events, occurrences, or words.

6. Bible Context/Biblical Theology: Consider how passages fit into the broader context of the Bible. Biblical theology is paramount, helping you view the Bible as a cohesive narrative detailing God's relationship with humanity. Study themes progressively, linking them with God's plan for redemption. The Bible is seamless, it is coherent, and you must read the Bible as a whole. Every text must be interpreted in the light of the WHOLE scriptures. Don't confine your theology to just Moses, the Psalms, the Prophets, Pauline, or Petrine. Embrace the entirety of the Bible.

7. Historical Check: Explore the history of the Church and what it has believed about a given subject. Remember, doctrine isn't about novelty; it's about conveying God's truth. Analyze how truths have been articulated amid controversies and conflicts. Consult scholarly writers and historical sermons. Crosscheck any new ideas against established doctrine. A doctrine that has never been affirmed in Christian history is likely false. We should evaluate teachings based on:

A. The early Church's doctrine (Acts 2:42)

B. The historical creeds (e.g., Nicene Creed, Apostles' Creed)

C. The theological battles of the past (e.g., the Reformation, Church Councils)

"Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set." - Proverbs 22:28
KJV. The history of Christian doctrine provides a safeguard against deception.

8. Pray: Pray Psalm 119 earnestly, honestly, persistently and fervently. Cry out: *Psalm 119:80 "Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed."*

While we study Scripture and history, we must also trust God for illumination: *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth."* - John 16:13 KJV. Doctrine is not just an intellectual pursuit—it requires spiritual discernment. Guard against pride—Be teachable and submit to God's Word (Isaiah 66:2).

This is not a temporary endeavour but rather a lifelong pursuit. So, take a moment to calm down.

"It takes God twenty years to make a man. It took him twenty years to make John the Baptist, and then he preached for six months!" - Leonard Ravehill

Before you discard that quote... In essence, this quote underlines the importance of investing more time in preparation and training than the actual execution of a task, which leads to greater effectiveness. It also highlights that true conviction takes years to develop, cautioning against hasty and superficial adoption of beliefs or theology.

Take heed to yourself and your doctrine!

Take Heed to the Ministry

"Say to Archippus, 'Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.'" - Colossians 4:17

Archippus is described by Paul as *"our fellow soldier"* (Philemon 1:2), suggesting that he was either a partner in ministry with Paul or recognized as a leader, likely the pastor of the church in the house of Philemon. This term, fellow soldier, indicates that Archippus was actively engaged in the work of the gospel, willing to endure hardship as a faithful servant of Christ. Paul

often used military imagery to describe Christian service, emphasizing the discipline, endurance, and focus required. He reminded Timothy of this same principle:

"You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier." - 2 Timothy 2:3-4

The Seriousness of "Taking Heed"

The phrase *"take heed"* in Colossians 4:17 comes from the Greek word *blepō*, meaning to watch, to pay attention, to be alert. Paul wasn't merely giving Archippus a casual reminder; it was a strong command—almost a warning. This suggests that Archippus may have been distracted, negligent, or struggling to give his ministry the attention it required.

Paul, as a seasoned leader, was essentially saying: *"Keep your eyes open, stay aware, be discerning, and understand your ministry."* The ability to fulfill one's ministry is directly tied to this taking heed. If a person loses awareness, understanding, or discernment regarding their calling, they risk failing to complete it.

The phrase *"that you may fulfill it"* is in the subjunctive mood in Greek, meaning it is not guaranteed. It expresses the possibility that Archippus might not fulfill his ministry, depending on whether he took heed. Success in ministry is conditional—faithfulness and obedience are required.

Adoniram Judson, the missionary to Burma, once said: *"A life once spent is irrevocable. It will remain to be contemplated through eternity... the same may be said of each day. When it is once past, it is gone forever. Each day will not only be a witness of our conduct, but will affect our everlasting destiny... The future is in our*

power. Let us, then, each morning, resolve to send the day into eternity in such a garb as we shall wish it to wear forever. And at night let us reflect that one more day is irrevocably gone, indelibly marked."

This speaks directly to the urgency of taking heed—the weight of every moment in fulfilling our God-given purpose. What will you do today that will count for eternity?

Ministry in an Age of Distraction

We live in a time when many are distracted from the ministry they have received from the Lord. Some are caught up in personal ambitions, while others are burdened by fear, doubt, or even outright disobedience.

- **Distraction:** Some believers allow worldly concerns, career pursuits, or social status to take priority over their God-given assignment.
- **Fear & Doubt:** Others hesitate because they feel inadequate or unqualified.
- **Disobedience:** Some knowingly resist God's calling, running away like Jonah.

Paul's charge to Archippus is just as relevant to us today. We must give full attention to the work God has entrusted to us and fulfill it.

Examples of Those Who Fulfilled (or Failed) Their Ministry

Throughout Scripture, we see examples of those who completed their assignments and those who did not:

- **Paul:** *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."* - 2 Timothy 4:7

- Jesus: *“I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.” - John 17:4*
- John the Baptist: He fulfilled his mission of preparing the way for Christ (Luke 1:16-17).

However, we also see examples of those who did not fulfill their calling:

- Saul: Disobeyed God and lost his kingdom (1 Samuel 15:22-23).
- Jonah: Initially ran from God’s call but repented and obeyed (Jonah 1-3).

Archippus had the same choice: to fulfill his ministry or fail in it. The same choice stands before us today. Fulfilling Ministry is a Choice. Ministry does not fulfill itself—it requires intentionality. Paul’s words to Archippus remind us that our calling is not automatic; it demands:

1. Understanding our calling: Knowing our gifts and purpose (Romans 12:6-8).
2. Commitment to fulfilling it: Staying faithful to the charge we have received (Colossians 4:17).
3. Willingness to obey, even in hardship: Not giving up when ministry becomes difficult (2 Corinthians 4:1).

A believer can live and die without fulfilling God’s purpose—not because God failed, but because they neglected or abandoned their assignment.

A Call to Self-Examination

Paul’s challenge to Archippus is also a challenge to us. We must ask ourselves: What is the ministry I have received in the Lord? Am I paying attention to it? Do I truly understand what God has called me to do? Am I actively fulfilling it, or simply drifting through life? Paul was committed to finishing his race with joy (Acts 20:24). Timothy was challenged to fulfill his ministry (2 Timothy

4:5). Now, the same charge comes to us: *"Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."* - Colossians 4:17

The question remains: Will you take heed?

Succeeding in the right Thing

A man once said, *"I'm not afraid of my children not succeeding, but I'm afraid of them succeeding in the wrong things."* This statement reflects a deep truth about life and purpose. Success in itself is not enough; what truly matters is that our success aligns with what God has called us to do. Paul's instruction to Archippus in Colossians 4:17 is clear: *"Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."* This was not just about engaging in any work but about fulfilling the specific assignment given by God.

You must do what you have been called and appointed to do, not just what you like to do. It is not merely about personal preference or passion; it is about divine commission. Many people assume that as long as they are engaged in something meaningful or morally good, they are on the right path. However, *"there is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death"* (Proverbs 14:12). It is possible to labor in something that God has not called you to, thinking you are doing the right thing. This is why Paul's charge to Archippus is crucial: watch and observe! What has God specifically called you to do? What is your divine assignment? What is your commission?

Every believer must understand that they have received a ministry. The word received implies active participation—it is not just about being called; it also requires a response. God has given every believer an assignment in Christ Jesus, and we must respond to it with intentionality. *"In the Lord"* suggests that every believer in Christ, by virtue of their salvation, has a particular ministry. For Archippus, this likely meant an oversight ministry in a local

church. But for each of us, there are specific assignments we must prayerfully seek and step into. *“We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” - Ephesians 2:10*

Paul’s example in Scripture demonstrates that divine assignments are unique and specific. He was called to the Gentiles, while Peter was called to the Jews (Galatians 2:7-8). This distinction highlights that our calling is not based on personal preference but on God’s sovereign design. We must discern what God has called us to do, not simply what we think is good or desirable.

Even within one’s calling, there are different phases of assignment. At various points, Paul and Barnabas fulfilled specific tasks. The book of Acts frequently uses the word fulfilled to describe Paul’s missionary work.

Acts 12:25 “And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled their ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark.”

Acts 14:26 “And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.”

At one stage, Paul received a specific call to Macedonia—not as a new calling to ministry, but as a fresh directive within his existing assignment (Acts 16:9-10). This teaches us that God’s calling can have different seasons and phases, and we must remain sensitive to His leading.

Acts 16:9-10 ESV “And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

Jesus Himself modeled this principle. In John 4, He ministered to the Samaritan woman, recognizing that this was part of the work the Father had given Him. He declared, “*My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work*” (John 4:34). This shows that Jesus was fully aware of His specific task in each moment. Likewise, we must seek to understand what God has called us to do in every season of our lives and commit to fulfilling it wholeheartedly.

Yes, the Great Commission is for all, and every believer is called to participate in spreading the gospel—reaching the lost and strengthening the saints. Our collective mandate is to see the Kingdom of God advance on the earth. However, within this universal calling, there are specific directives from God that each of us must discern and follow. It is not enough to have a general sense of purpose; we must seek clarity on what exactly God wants us to do.

This includes knowing where to go, who to reach, how to serve, and even what to avoid. That is why we cannot be careless about location if you want to serve God. God’s guidance is detailed and intentional. Throughout Scripture, we see that divine assignments are not random; they are specific. Philip was directed by the Spirit to minister to the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:29). Even Jesus, in His earthly ministry, operated with clear divine instructions—going where the Father led Him and doing what He was sent to do. “*I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things*” (John 8:28).

The point is this: we must not only embrace the general call to serve God but also seek specificity in our divine assignment. We must ask, “*Lord, what is my role in this mission? Where have You positioned me? What exactly have You entrusted to me?*” Fulfilling the Great Commission effectively requires that each believer finds their God-ordained place and walks in it with conviction and obedience.

You must be able to say with certainty, *“I have found my place in God’s eternal purpose!”* This is not about being generic but specific—knowing exactly what God has called you to do and doing it faithfully. *“But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”* - 2 Timothy 4:5

ABOUT THE YOUNG MINISTERS' FORUM

The Young Ministers' Forum (TYMF) is a parachurch movement committed to strengthening and equipping young ministers to fulfill God's purpose. Our goal is to inspire and train a new generation of Gospel-driven leaders who will actively advance the Great Commission in every sphere of influence. We provide mentorship, teaching, and fellowship to help young ministers navigate challenges such as distractions, ministry decadence, loneliness, and balancing life responsibilities.

Vision: "Strengthening and Equipping Young Ministers to Serve God's Purpose."

MISSION

Mentorship: We connect young ministers with experienced leaders who provide biblical teaching, practical ministry insights, and personal guidance to foster spiritual growth and effectiveness.

Training and Equipping: Through workshops, seminars, and structured training sessions, we enhance ministerial effectiveness, doctrinal understanding, and active ministerial engagement.

Fellowship and Camaraderie: TYMF provides a network for like-minded ministers to connect, share experiences, and strengthen one another in faith and ministry.

Resources and Support: We produce resources like tracts, booklets, ebooks, evangelistic and study materials for outreaches and strengthening local churches.

Personal and Spiritual Development: We emphasize character building, spiritual disciplines, and holistic growth, ensuring that ministers are well-grounded in faith and integrity.

Mission and World Evangelism: With a strong passion for evangelism and cross-cultural ministry, we encourage young ministers to embrace their calling to spread the Gospel globally.

TYMF invites young ministers seeking growth, mentorship, and alignment with God's purpose to join our community and benefit from its resources.