

Devotional...



Verse: 1Timothy 5:22 NLT

²²... Do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

The veteran apostle Paul, who was nearing the end of his race, gave much attention to guiding the younger Timothy in how to conduct himself in his role in leading the church in Ephesus. He went into detail about how to address older men and women, and younger men and women; how to treat widows; how to appoint and deal with elders and other leaders in the church.

In all of these dealings, he charged him to act with impartiality and to keep himself pure. If he allowed himself to fall into sin, it would affect his ministry. In fact, a few paragraphs back he had told him: *"Keep a close watch on how you live and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right for the sake of your own salvation and the salvation of those who hear you."* (1 Timothy 4:16 NLT)

How do you keep yourself pure?

Consider your life and the purity of your thoughts. Do you have an open relationship with God where you allow His word and Spirit to shine a light on your thoughts and the motives of your heart? Do you have honest, accountable relationships with fellow believers where you can safely share your struggles and victories? How quickly do you let go of offences and forgive, when the opportunity to do otherwise arises? What do you meditate on throughout the day?

Joshua 1:8 ESV "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

Colossians 3:2 ESV "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."

Philippians 4:8 ESV "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

These verses encourage us to fill our minds with the word of God, think on the things of God and meditate on what is good. May we apply ourselves to this and repent openly and quickly when we sin, thereby keeping ourselves pure and useful to our Master. (See 1 John 1:9)

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for Jesus, my Mediator – the One who paid the price for all my sin. Help me keep my eyes on Him. I repent of all darkness in my life, of every place where I have sinned and come short of your best for me. Guide me by your Spirit and in your word to keep myself pure and be a witness for you, **in Jesus' name. Amen.**