# Future Church Your Part 4: Guard yourself 1 Timothy 4

# From Here to there

## When we stand in the now and look back and look forward there is the temptation to find the answer in the past

### New difficulties need new solutions

# The church in the future will not be the same!

## It will be more loving, more worshipful, more aspirational, more appreciative community

# Your part in making future church happen

## Train yourself (1 Tim 4:7)

### In godliness (respecting and engaging with God)

#### In training it doesn’t matter if we fail

## Devote yourself (1 Tim 4:12)

### To reading (the Bible), encouraging and listen for God’s whispers

#### Pitch yourself in to enabling others do their bit

## Give yourself (1 Tim 4:15)

### Lose yourself to find another, even better, you

## Guard yourself (1 Tim 4:16)

### Watch yourself

### Watch your example

# The Future starts here with you

## If we want a brighter future, Paul says, we can’t just dream about it and we can’t just complain about where we are or the way we are going

### We train ourselves

### We devote ourselves

### We give ourselves

### We watch ourselves

## We are called by God to pitch in – and that’s the best way to build or conserve a legacy that others have died for

# Homegroup/private study questions

# The dream

## What hopes do you have for yourself, your family or your community? (we could also include clubs, nations and world)

### What would make it get there more slowly or stop it getting there?

#### How can these things be minimised?

### How could it be helped to get there?

### How could you help it?

### Could you get it there by yourself?

#### If not, what help do you need?

### What would happen if you did not stay focussed on this dream?

## Repeat this for your church

# Guard yourself

## How far do you agree that in order to turn a dream into reality a person must watch their character and conduct?

### What happens if they don’t?

### Why are character and conduct important in turning dreams to reality?

#### How can someone do this without becoming uptight and stiff or be plagued by ‘what others think of them’?

## How does a person’s example help or hinder turning a dream into reality?

### How can you give a good example without become ‘stiff’ in attitude?

## How far do you agree that it is not just what you teach but how you put it across that is important?

### Without naming names, give examples of where this has been done well or badly

#### What were the consequences?

## How do Christians ‘guard themselves’?

### (Eph 6:10ff is a good starter)

#### How does this image help our understanding of the battle for the future?