



Christian Mentoring

JOHN MALLISON MINISTRIES

HOW CAN A MINISTER STAY FOCUSED IN MINISTRY?

An old preacher said to me early in my ministry, "Take a good walk around yourself regularly, and try to see and hear what others may be seeing and hearing. It will be a most valuable walk."

Have you listened to yourself lately? Have you observed the focus of your ministry lately? Have you evaluated the influence and example of your life? Does it meet with your approval? Do you think it meets with God's approval?

The answers to the above questions could fill many pages. In brief I would say:

- Review regularly your sense of calling from God.
- Renew your consecration to God as his under-shepherd. (*Phil 3:7,8*)
- Every day of your life, seek to do God's will from your heart (*Eph 6:6*).
- Let financial compensation take a back seat to your true and deep commitment to ministry for Christ.
- Focus on revival for the "saints" and a search for the lost and straying sheep and lambs.
- Study the Word deeply and keep at it until you can present soul-changing messages.
- Spend no time trying to politically please people, but concern yourself with pleasing God.
- If you have taken unto yourself a spouse, make his or her life and your marriage a top priority.
- If you and your spouse have brought children into the world, let them be your first mission field.
- Never lose your sense of urgency about what life and ministry are about. We are getting a people ready for the coming of the Lord.

Paul's charge to the young man Timothy was, "Herald and preach the Word! Keep your sense of urgency (stand by, be at hand and ready), whether the opportunity seems to be favourable or unfavourable. (Whether it is convenient or inconvenient, whether it is welcome or unwelcome, you as a preacher of the Word are to show people in what way their lives are wrong.) And convince them, rebuking and correcting, warning and urging and encouraging them, being unflagging and inexhaustible in patience and teaching" (*2 Tim 4:2, AMP*).

(adapted from an article by C Lloyd Wyman, D.Min, entitled "Traction or Distraction" which appeared in "MINISTRY", May 2004 – used with permission)

REFLECTION:

- 1) What is the current "season" of ministry for you?
- 2) In this context, how closely does your current ministry align with Paul's charge to Timothy?
- 3) To what degree is your "sense of urgency" expressed at present?
- 4) What encouragement to address an issue might be appropriate for you personally at this time?

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