## The Heart of the Matter

A church that fails to look within can start to drift without knowing it. However, we cannot stop after looking within. We also need to spend some time looking around to understand the times in which we live and the culture in which we minister. In order to carry this out, we must seek the counsel of the aging apostle Paul as he wrote to the young pastor Timothy. From Paul's pen, we'll glean the straightforward answer to this important question: "What must the church realize?"

## Discovering the Way

## 1. Warnings We Dare Not Ignore

The New Testament is filled with warnings about the last days. Let's heed them.

## 2. Times in Which We Minister (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

The times in which we minister are both dark and dangerous because the people who populate the earth and who sometimes creep into our churches are self-lovers and not God-lovers.


So what does all this mean? For now, hear and heed the warning: stay alert . . . and avoid treacherous people.

