

# Building the Church Requires Great Discernment

## Timothy 4:1-5

*We need to be very discerning about the input we receive!*

1. People “depart from the faith” (v1) when they are led astray (v2)
2. Deceivers contradict God’s Word (v3)
3. It is possible to wander from God’s Word on the side of liberalism or conservatism (v3)
4. Three things will help us discern what is good (v4-5):
  - a. God’s Word
  - b. Prayer
  - c. Godly counsel

# **Building the Church Requires Godly Servanthood**

## **(1 Timothy 3:8-13)**

**FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:**

1. How much time do you spend in a typical week in each of the following categories? Watching TV, listening to podcasts, reading blogs, reading Facebook, reading the Bible, praying
2. Pastor Ken described meat as that which we digest for ourselves, and milk as that which comes to us having been digested by another. What “milk” do you consume in a typical week? From what sources?
3. What are some of the dangers of topical preaching? What are some of the advantages of expository preaching?
4. What advice would you give to someone who is just getting started reading the Bible?
5. How reliable a guide is your conscience? Paul speaks of a “good conscience” (1:5, 19), a “clear conscience” (3:9) and a “seared conscience” (4:2). What do those adjectives tell us about the conscience? How can we be sure our conscience is operating rightly?
6. Read 1 John 2:18-25 (especially v19). What does someone walking away from the faith say about whether they were ever saved? What other Scriptures inform your position?