Four Keys to Spiritual Success
2 Tim. 4:5

Introduction:
A. Baptism does not guarantee spiritual success.
   1. Baptism essential to salvation from sin (Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).
   2. Baptism does not complete our obedience — is near the beginning.
   3. Baptism puts one in a position to spiritually succeed — a prerequisite.
B. Paul’s words to Timothy contain Four Keys to Spiritual Success:

Discussion:
I. Watchfulness.
   A. Failure to watch leads to tragic results physically and spiritually.
      1. Railroad crossings, busy road intersections.
      2. Weather watches: hurricanes, tornadoes and floods.
   B. Need for watchmen and watchdogs (cf. Isa. 62:6; 56:10).
      1. Two dangerous watchdogs — Never barking and ever barking.
      2. If have choose between two — ever barking.
   C. Must watch for ourselves and others (cf. 1 Tim. 4:16).
      1. Alert to the dangers to our souls.
      2. Alert to the dangers to the souls of others (cf. Acts 20:31; 1 Cor. 4:14; 1 Thess. 5:14)
      3. Alert to the dangers to the peace and purity of the church.
II. Endurance.
   A. Text is not speaking the common afflictions of humanity.
      1. Have no choice but to endure or suffer these.
      2. Being a Christian can help us endure or suffer them better.
   B. Text is speaking of the afflictions of a Christian.
      1. These are sufferings due to being a Christian (cf. 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 4:16, 19)
      2. These are endured by choice to serve God (Heb. 11:25, 35)
III. Evangelism.
   A. Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Lk. 19:10).
   B. “Evangelist” used three times in the NT (Acts 21:8; Eph 4:11; 2 Tim. 4:5)
      1. Speaks of those who especially give themselves evangelism
      2. Literally preachers of the gospel.
   C. Evangelism is not the exclusive work of “evangelists.”
      1. Just as “watching for souls” is not exclusive work of elders.
      2. Just as “serving” is not exclusive work of deacons.
   D. Evangelism is a work of all Christians (cf. Acts 8:4).
IV. Fulfillment.
   A. Means to fulfill (NKJ) or carry out ministry to the fullest.
   B. Our ministry is manifold — all facets to be done fullest.
      1. To worship and glorify God.
      2. To reach spiritual maturity (Eph. 4:15,16)
      3. To edify Christians in the process (Heb. 10:25; Eph 5:19; 1 Cor. 14:5, 12, 17, 26).
      4. To prepare of our departure (vv. 6-8).

Conclusion:
A. Baptism does not guarantee success, but cannot succeed without baptism.
B. Why not be baptized today and then follow teachings of our text carefully?