



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

“GUARD THE TREASURE!” – 2 TIMOTHY 1:14

COLORADO

APRIL 15, 2014

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Timothy had been saved with a holy calling for God’s purpose and Paul reminds him that he was secure in the One he had placed his life, his trust and his confidence in. Then, Paul calls on Timothy to retain that standard of truth that changed his life forever, because it is the Word of God that does the work of God in our lives. Our words are powerless, even the most effective words cannot save or change a life. Only the Word of God is effective in calling one to salvation, transforming a heart and renewing the mind through its sanctifying work in cooperation with the Holy Spirit. And it is God’s Word that teaches us about Who God is and offers the unshakeable pillars of truth we can live by and rely upon. Now Paul exhorts Timothy to faithfully guard this treasure he has been given.

I. “GUARD THE TREASURE!” – 2 TIMOTHY 1:14

2 Timothy 1:13-14, “Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.”

Paul took his responsibility to the gospel seriously, not wanting anything to dilute or distort the message to suit popular thinking. The message must never be changed because the souls of men depended on it. Therefore Paul issued two imperatives in 2 Timothy 1:13-14. Last week we looked at our first responsibility to the gospel; “Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.” Now Paul reminds Timothy that his responsibility to the gospel also includes this charge; “Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.”

A. “GUARD THE TREASURE” – 2 TIMOTHY 1:14

Paul calls on Timothy to vigilantly preserve the message of the gospel for the truths he has been taught must never be changed.

“guard” Greek **phulaxō** means to watch, to keep, to preserve, to be perpetually vigilant like a soldier, protecting against loss or destruction like a banker, protection against change.

“treasure” Greek **kalos** means good deposit, excellent choice, the good thing committed, harmonious completeness, a deposit committed to someone’s trust

It is imperative that Timothy preserves sound teaching from becoming corrupted, eroded or changed. Timothy must be vigilant like a soldier to guard the good deposit of the gospel from distortion or change. He must protect the good deposit of the gospel from counterfeit lies or deceptive destruction like a banker guards the

good deposit of money entrusted to him. The gospel must never be corrupted or the message changed because it is this truth, not half-truths or distorted truths that save.

Paul wants Timothy to take his responsibility to the gospel seriously. Heretical teaching was a constant threat. Only the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ can save. As believers, we not only have the responsibility to share this message, but also to keep and preserve it. It will require perpetual vigilance and the moment we drop our guard, deception creeps in. We not only have been given the gospel which brought us to salvation, but the gospel has been a good deposit, a treasure given to us to guard, keep, protect, defend, preserve and watch.

A true treasure is worth sharing, worth guarding, worth living for and worth dying for. The gospel of Jesus Christ is that good deposit, that good thing committed to us, our true eternal treasure and we must preserve this sound teaching from being corrupted by any means. We must defend it and never let the message of the gospel be diluted or distorted. Paul would later write that he would never be a part of “*adulterating the word of God*”. (2 Corinthians 4:2)

Not only are we called to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel (Philippians 1:27) but we must guard the gospel against addition or deletion of any kind. There will always be those who want to add to the message or take away from the message for one reason or another. The Apostle Peter wrote as a warning in 2 Peter 2:1-2; “*But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned.*” And then later he exhorts believers with the following words; “*Therefore beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation, just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters speaking in them of these things to which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*”

Jude, the half-brother of Jesus would write, “*Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once*

BIBLE STUDIES

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for all delivered to the saints. For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” We must take our responsibility to the gospel of Jesus Christ seriously and guard the treasure given to us. As Jude says, we must contend earnestly for the faith for it is under constant assault. It is our sacred duty as believers to safeguard this good deposit, the true and only treasure in this life, given to us to keep, to watch, to guard, preserve, protect and defend. But how can we fulfill this responsibility to the gospel of Jesus Christ?

B. “THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT” – 2 TIMOTHY 1:14B

2 Timothy 1:13-14, “Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.”

God offers His divine assistance enabling us to fulfill the responsibility He has given us. Paul reminds Timothy and us as well; that we can count on the assistance of the Holy Spirit Whose purpose is to promote the gospel of God which is the only truth that set’s men free from sin.

“dwells” Greek *enoikountos*” present tense, means resides continuously, to pitch a tent.

The fact that God has pitched His tent in us through the Holy Spirit is an amazing truth. God Himself has taken up residence in our hearts. Because the word is present tense, this means that the Holy Spirit is continuously, constantly in us. Jesus prayed in John 14:16-17 for the Helper Who would come and be with us forever. Before He ascended to heaven, our Lord promised that the Holy Spirit would come, enabling a bold and powerful witness. 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 6:19 remind us that the Spirit dwells within every believer. He is at work in our lives convicting, revealing, enabling and empowering us to grow and live the Christian life in a way that is pleasing to God.

God has the power to guard what we have entrusted to Him. (2 Timothy 1:12) and here God gives us the power to guard what He has entrusted to us through the Holy Spirit. The guarding is not the task of Timothy alone. It is done with the help of the indwelling Holy Spirit. We can never succeed in serving God through our own strength. Paul’s appeal to Timothy is to live out his ministry through the power of the Holy Spirit. Only in that way can we not be ashamed, join in suffering for the gospel, retain the standard of sound words and guard the treasure of God. In our weakness is the occasion for God’s power. Oswald Chambers said this, “All through

history, God has chosen and used nobodies because their unusual dependence on Him made possible the unique display of His power and grace.”¹ We have God’s divine provision and assistance through the Holy Spirit to guard the treasure, the good deposit of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

C. “WHICH HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED TO YOU” – 2 TIMOTHY 1:14C

Paul spoke of that which he had entrusted to God in 2 Timothy 1:12. His life and work were safe and secure with God. Paul knew God personally and intimately and God would not fail him. But now, Paul calls on Timothy to safeguard and keep the unbroken trust God had place in him. God has the power to guard what we have entrusted to Him. So He also gives us the power to guard what He has entrusted to us. Paul urges Timothy to safeguard the trust God has place in Him.²

We have been given a treasure. We have been entrusted with a solemn duty from God- to uphold, defend and proclaim the treasure, the good deposit of the gospel. That carries a great responsibility. The most solemn responsibility a believer has is to defend and uphold the integrity of God’s Word. Look at our world today...is this not a needed call; to guard the treasure of the gospel and retain the standard of sound words.

Follow Paul’s example. A true treasure is worth guarding, worth dying for and worth sharing. It must not be distorted, deleted or added to in any way because it is the Word of God that does the work of God. Hold tightly to the pattern of truth that is taught and take seriously your responsibility to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- ❖ The deposit of our lives with God is secure. The question is, how secure is His deposit of the truth with us?³
- ❖ Do you compromise, deviate from the gospel, distort the gospel in any way so it is more appealing to others and maybe even ourselves?
- ❖ Do you understand and are you committed to your responsibility to the gospel? Do you take this seriously?
- ❖ Are you committed to retaining the standard and guarding the treasure of the gospel?
- ❖ What is holding you back from fulfilling God’s purpose in your life?

¹Hughes, R. Kent and Chapell, Bryan, *1 and 2 Timothy and Titus; To Guard the Deposit*. Crossway Books: Wheaton, Illinois, 2000. Pg. 187.

²Barclay, William, *The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*. Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 1956, revised 1975 and 2003. Pg. 169.

³MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.31.