

Guard the Gospel – 2 Timothy

2 Timothy 1:1-7

“Fan into flame the gift of God” – June 9, 2019



Introduction

When it comes to spiritual things, our hearts are like leaky pots; you fill them up with truth, but with sin, distractions, and discouragement, they leak and need to be filled up again. As Timothy faced a number of challenges in the Ephesian church he pastored, he needed encouragement that came from the reminders of his father-in-the faith, the apostle Paul.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Remember the promise of life (1:1-2)
- II. Remember the encouragement of God's people (1:3-5)
- III. Remember the help of God's Spirit (1:6-7)

Read & Discuss

1. Read [2 Timothy 1:1-2](#)

If Timothy faced discouragement at his task as a pastor in Ephesus, Paul encourages him with the reminder: our message is true, God is faithful to His promise, and we have been entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ – *the way, the truth and the life* (see [John 14:6](#)). The promise of life is a future hope, and what we can start to experience now. In John 17:3, Jesus says eternal life is to know “the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” We will *fully* know in the future, but this relationship begins now! How does knowing the promise of life help you face the challenges and discouragements that come with following Jesus in a fallen world? In our gathering on Sunday, we reviewed the gospel message by confessing it out loud as a church family. Take some time to read and reflect on these truths even now:

“The Gospel *is the joyous declaration that God is redeeming the world through Christ and that he calls everyone everywhere to repent from sin and trust Jesus Christ for salvation. Each of us has sinned against God, breaking his law and rebelling against his rule, and the penalty for our sin is death and hell. But because of His love, God sent his Son Jesus to live for his people's sake the perfect, obedient life God requires and to die on the cross in our place for our sin. On the third day, Christ rose bodily from the grave and now reigns in heaven, offering forgiveness, righteousness, resurrection, and eternal blessedness in God's presence to everyone who repents of sin and trusts solely in Him for salvation.”*

Additional Reading: Romans 6:23, Titus 1:2

2. Read [2 Timothy 1:3-5](#)

Another way Paul encourages Timothy is to remind him of his 'sincere faith.' He knew Timothy, what he believed, and the fruit he'd seen in his life over the years. He encourages the young pastor by pointing out evidences of God's grace (and thanking God, v3), praying for him 'night and day,' and highlighting how his faith stands in a long line of those who believed God's promises – much like his grandma Lois or mother Eunice. The church is a family of believers who have covenanted to encourage and warn each other to help each other persevere. Our church covenant states, "We will walk together in Christian love by faithfully caring for, watching over, and admonishing one another as occasions may require." Who do you need to encourage this way today? What might that look like?

Additional Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:14, Jude 22

3. Read [2 Timothy 1:6-7](#)

To help Timothy keep going, Paul reminds him the resources available to Him from the Holy Spirit: a Spirit of *power, love and self-control*. All that God calls us to, He also equips us for, but we must fan into flame the gift of God. We do this thru being strengthened by God's grace ([2:1](#)) [that comes in devouring God's word], praying, and stepping out in obedience. Are you feeling weary or in need of God's help to keep going? How can you rely on God's Spirit and fan into flame *today*, the gift of God? Remember how the hymn puts it:

*'Come, ye sinners, poor and needy...Weak and wounded, sick and sore!
Jesus ready stands to save you...Full of pity, love and power.
He is able, He is able, He is able...He is willing, doubt no more!...
Lo! The incarnate God ascending...Pleads the merit of His blood;
Venture* on Him, venture freely...Let no other trust intrude.
None but Jesus, None but Jesus, None but Jesus...Can do helpless sinners good.*

(*To 'venture' is to step out even in faith even when it feels risky...)

Additional Reading: James 4:6, Philippians 4:6-7

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

***Next week's sermon text:** we turn to **2 Timothy 1:8-18** "Endure Suffering