

Guard the Gospel – 2 Timothy

2 Timothy 1:8-18

“Fan into flame the gift of God” – June 16, 2019



Introduction

How we define ‘success’ shapes the decisions we make about time, priorities and reveals what we value. We always make time for the things that we value. With lots of competing ideas of success, how should we live? As Paul writes to encourage Timothy, he shows him how to live such that his life (and ours) can help to guard the gospel and honor *His* name.

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. Be unashamed of God's grace (1:8-12)
- II. Be unashamed of God's word (1:13-14)
- III. So you can be unashamed on the day of God (1:15-18)

Read & Discuss

1. Read [2 Timothy 1:8-12](#)

Here, Paul calls Timothy to *not* be ashamed of the gospel or him, a *messenger* of the gospel. In vv9-10, the apostle defines what the gospel is. Take some time to read those verses again. How is the Christian saved according to these verses? What do they say about God's grace toward us in regard to our *past*, our *present*, and *future*? Why is God's grace offensive to those who are self-righteous and those who love their sin?

Additional Reading: Hebrews 2:11, Ephesians 1:4-6

2. Read [2 Timothy 1:13-14](#)

After calling Timothy to be unashamed of the gospel and to join in suffering for it when necessary, he shows how that looks in vv13-14. We do this by following the pattern of sound words and guarding the gospel. The ‘pattern’ is the standard of truth God gives in the pages of Scripture thru His apostles (New Testament) and His prophets (Old Testament). Today, pastors and Christians don't write Scripture (the canon is closed), we follow the pattern given to us in the authoritative, true words of God. What does it look like for you (individually) to *know God's word*, *proclaim God's word*, and *hold on to all of God's word*? How do we help each other do that as a church family or *corporately*?

Additional Reading: Ephesians 2:20, Colossians 3:16

3. Read [2 Timothy 1:15-18](#)

Here Paul gives Timothy examples of what he's been talking about. It seems Phygelus and Hermogenes ditched Paul because they'd fallen in love with the world, much like Demas (see 2 Tim. 4:10). Onesiphorus, however, was unashamed of the gospel and God's gospel-messenger. He sought him out and cared for his practical needs to encourage the apostle sitting in prison on death-row. Paul was a sinner saved by grace, just like you and me ([1 Tim. 1:15](#)). He trusted God, but God used friends like Onesiphorus and the power of His Spirit to sustain him and keep him going. So...how would you define success today? Does how you're living and what you're pursuing match what God says 'success' is? On the 'last day' when you stand before God will you have regrets? If so, what changes do you need to make *today* to be ready for the *last day*?

Additional Reading: 2 Timothy 4:7-8

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.

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***Next week's sermon text:** we turn to **2 Timothy 2:1-13** "Strengthened by God's grace"