

Guard the Gospel – 2 Timothy

2 Timothy 3:10-17

“Difficult Days” – July 14, 2019



Introduction

Since things break down and wear out in this world, we often equate *new* with *improved*. There are times we look at the pain, challenges, and persecutions that come with following Jesus and we may think, *is it because the message is outdated? Is it time for a 'new and improved' version of Christianity?* Change is good when we think about Paul's call to not be conformed but rather to be transformed by the renewal of our minds (Romans 12:2). But it's we who need to change, not God, nor his message. Knowing the pressure Timothy is under as a pastor in Ephesus, Paul writes to encourage him to continue with what he'd learned and believed from God's word. Continuing, is part of guarding the gospel.

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. Draw strength from gospel roots (3:10-12)
- II. Draw strength from God's word (3:13-17)

Read & Discuss

1. Read [2 Timothy 3:10-12](#)

Paul reminds Timothy how he had followed his example by following his teaching, his way of life and his suffering. Timothy knew what he was getting into because he'd likely seen or heard of Paul's suffering for the gospel during his first missionary journey in and near Timothy's hometown of Lystra (see Acts 13-14). The fact of the matter was: Timothy found Jesus far more valuable than the cost that came with following Him.

How have the examples of other Christians helped you to follow Jesus in difficult times? Who are people in our church you'd like to learn more about how they became a Christian or how God has helped them? Why not ask them out to lunch or have them to your house to ask them about their testimony and what God has done and is doing to strengthen them?

Additional Reading: Matthew 13:44, Philippians 3:17, 1 Corinthians 11:1

2. Read [2 Timothy 3:13-17](#)

The command Paul gives Timothy is in v14: continue! Remain, abide, stick with what God has taught you and you've believed in His word! Don't get caught up in new myths and foolish

speculation. In order to help Timothy (and us!), Paul provides four reasons why he should stick with God's word:

1) Because of *whom* taught him. We know his mom and grandmother taught him God's word since his childhood (v15). Though our parents are not unfailing guides of truth, when you have a godly parent who loves you enough to teach you God's word, that's a gift! Knowing the character of those who taught you should give you pause and make you weigh things carefully before you'd ever ditch their teaching.

2) Because it can make you wise for salvation. The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to us. Both Old and New Testaments point to Jesus (see Luke 24:25-27). God's word in itself cannot save us but it reveals Jesus who can. When you read God's word, ask, "What does this text teach me about God?" Trust Him!

3) Because it is *God-breathed*. Paul's point here is the Bible *is* God's word. The source is God Himself! We should thus handle God's word with care and take time to read, study, memorize, and obey God's word. What a gift!

4) Because it's profitable: to teach, reprove, correct and train us in righteousness. Need to know how to live or make a particular decision! Look to God's word!

Are you drawing strength from God's word on a daily basis? What can you do to grow in this area?

Additional Reading: Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Colossians 3:16, Psalm 119:11

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 4:1-5** "Preach the Word"