

Guard the Gospel – 2 Timothy

2 Timothy 4:9-22

“God stood by me” – August 11, 2019



Introduction

In Matthew 28, Jesus gave His marching orders to His followers: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Crystal clear instructions, but often, we remain silent due to fear. How then can we overcome the fear that threatens to silent our gospel witness? How can we walk by faith and guard the gospel? Paul closes the letter with two encouragements we look at today.

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. Risk making bold gospel plans (4:9-16)
- II. Rely on the promise of God's help (4:16-22)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [2 Timothy 4:9-16](#)

Paul demonstrates what it means to minister *in the midst* of discouragement, opposition, and discomfort. When he needed help the most at his trial, all deserted him. When he sought to bring the good news, *some* opposed him. How was Paul able to forgive them ('may it not be charged against them')? Why was it important for his ministry (and our) that he forgive rather than be entrenched in bitterness?

As we work to make gospel plans, we need to avoid a busyness that keeps us from guarding our heart and falling in love with this world rather than God (think Demas, v10). At the same time we must guard against fear making us overly cautious and timid (review [2 Timothy 1:6-7](#)). What is your plan to share the gospel with those who don't yet know Jesus? To grow in holiness? To read the Scriptures? To help other Christians grow in the faith?

Additional Reading: Ephesians 4:32, Romans 12:19, Proverbs 15:22

- 1) Read [2 Timothy 4:16-22](#)

Making bold gospel plans reminds us we can't do this on our own or in our own strength. Though everyone deserted Paul during his day in court, God stood by him and strengthened him so that he was able to proclaim the gospel despite any fear he may have been battling.

The help Paul experienced is a promise God makes to all who are willing to trust in Him. We don't overcome fear by playing it safe in hopes of creating circumstances we can manage. We overcome fear by obediently stepping into the things that are risky but God commands in Scripture and leaning on those around us. As we do, it's *then* we experience *God's grace with us*. What does it look like for you to trust God's promise this week?

Additional Reading: Hebrews 13:5, 1 John 2:1-2

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 Philippians 4:4-7 "When should we Pray?"
