



**Guard the Good News
2 Timothy 1:8-18**

Pressure tempts one to modify the truth or stop speaking it all together.

Pressure can be the threat of arrest, persecution, violence or suffering. Pressure can be the culture trying to make us conform to it. Pressure can be seeking the approval of people important to us in our lives. Timothy may have been tempted to change what he was teaching or stop all together because of one or more of these pressures. Paul encourages him to not be ashamed of the gospel and to guard it and teach it.

The Good News

Paul in verses 9 and 10 summarizes the good news of the gospel. Before time began God according to His purpose and grace saved us and called us. Paul emphasizes we were not saved because of our good works. This purpose and calling were made evident when Jesus, the Savior came. Through His saving work he abolished death and has brought life and immortality. Is Jesus Christ your Savior? If not, trust Him today. If yes, then you have a duty to protect and proclaim the truth.

Don't Be Ashamed of It

The gospel is good news! Yet many reject it because they see it as offensive, exclusive, irrational, unnecessary and even dangerous. If people see the gospel that way, we can be tempted to be ashamed of it, our Christianity, and our leaders. Unfortunately, there are too many Christians who act as though they are ashamed of their faith. People generally are ashamed of prisoners, and many felt that way about Paul and abandoned him. Paul suffered greatly because he wasn't ashamed of the gospel. As he suffered, he relied on the power of God, and trusted his life and work to God in whom he was confident God would guard until the last day.

Guard It

Paul realized his life was coming to an end. Since he knew the importance of passing on the gospel and Christian teaching to others, like Timothy, who would take his place, he challenges Timothy to hang to and guard this truth. Timothy was to commit to the truth and share it with the faith and love of Christ. He was to guard the gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit. While guards can be harsh, stoic and violent, we guard the truth with faith, love and the power of God.

A Choice to Make

Timothy could choose to be a faithful steward of the gospel, or an unfaithful one. Paul gave examples of each. The people in the Roman province of Asia where Ephesus was had abandoned Paul, including Phygelus and Hermogenes. On the other hand, Onesiphorus had been a true friend to Paul. Onesiphorus had encouraged Paul, wasn't ashamed of Paul's chains, and had even searched in Rome to find Paul to minister to him. Onesiphorus had also been a faithful minister in Ephesus. Paul prayed God would be merciful to Onesiphorus on judgment day.