### ENTRUSTED

20 Timothy

### Theme of Letter

To be devoted to the message & mission of the gospel in the face of false teaching & suffering.

#### Overview

Call to

SUFFER for

the Gospel

Call to ENDURE for the Gospel 3

Call to be STRENGTHENED by the Gospel 4

Call to PREACH the Gospel

Week 4: Preserve the Gospel

[13] Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. [14] By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you. [15] You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.

[16] May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, [17] but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me—[18] may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.



Retain

Resist

Refresh



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### RETAIN

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### RETAIN

- •Remember Paul's **EXAMPLE**
- •Don't improvise the <u>CONTENT</u> of the gospel.
- •The gospel is VITAL to spiritual health

### Digging Deeper

- •Greek word echo means, "to have, hold, possess," is a very common Greek word (700+ times in NT); and is translated as: "follow, retain, keep, hold fast, etc."
- •Greek word hygiano means, "sound, healthy, good working order."

### 1 Timothy 1:8-11

[8] Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, [9] understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, [10] the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, [11] in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

### 1 Timothy 6:3-5

[3] If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, [4] he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, [5] and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain

# What does it mean to hold to the "sound" words of the gospel in these passages?

How have the "sound" words of the gospel been spiritually healthy or life-giving to you?

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What does it mean to hold to the gospel "in the faith & love that are in Christ Jesus?"

### RETAIN

- Doctrine & lifestyle should match a very consistent theme in the Pastoral Epistles.
- Holding to sound words should result in a personal trust in the Lord Jesus.
- Holding to sound words should result in an authentic love for Jesus.



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### 1 Timothy 6:20-21

[20] O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge," [21] for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you.

[18] This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, [19] holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, [20] among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

## Why does Timothy need to "guard" the good deposit?

### What are examples of threats to the gospel in our culture?

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### RESIST

- Guarding the gospel is **not**, should not, cannot be done in our **OWN STRENGTH**.
- Guarding is a matter of DEPENDENCE, not merely diligence.
- Guarding is required because we are in a SPIRITUAL BATTLE (Eph. 6; 2 Cor. 10)

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### RESIST

- Paul experienced widespread (all in Asia) & personal (Phygelus & Hermogenes) desertion.
- Paul names two examples, perhaps because Timothy knew them or needed to know them.
- Desertion isn't new to Jesus-followers (Jn. 15); but it illustrates the **cost of discipleship**, that some are not willing to bear.

What potential threats would cause someone to abandon Christ or his followers today?



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### Digging Deeper

Greek word *anapsýxō* (from *aná*, "*up*/completing a process" which intensifies *psýxō*, "cool by blowing")

- Properly, <u>bring cooling</u> (reviving, with fresh air); (figuratively) <u>bring much-needed (much-welcomed) relief</u>,
- Causing someone to recover a state of cheer or encouragement after a time of anxiety and trouble – '<u>to</u> <u>encourage, to cheer up</u>'





### How did Onesiphorus "refresh" Paul?

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### REFRESH

- Paul needed refreshment because of the combination of abandonment, suffering, loneliness, etc.
- Onesiphorus refreshed Paul because:
  - He was faithful to Christ when others weren't
  - He was willing to serve Paul in face of danger
  - He was personally encouraging to Paul

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## Why does Paul pray for mercy for Onesiphorus & his household?



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Refresh

### Application: Retain/ Resist

- Identify one core doctrine (e.g., grace, resurrection, sin) and review it biblically this week. Clarify it for yourself and be ready to explain it clearly to others.
- Choose one area of theology you've felt unsure about and commit to studying it biblically. Use a trusted commentary or resource.

### Application: Refresh

- This week, encourage a friend or family member using Scripture not opinion or cliché. Speak with both truth and compassion.
- Reach out to a missionary, pastor, or Christian friend under strain. Encourage them with a visit, call, prayer, or send a message.

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