



"Guarding What Matters Most"

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I. The Gospel is _____ by God to Disciples

A. Carried by _____

1 Timothy 1:1a "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus"

Galatians 1:1 "Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead"

Galatians 1:11-12 "For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ."

B. Commanded by _____

1 Timothy 1:1b "by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope"

C. Guarded by _____

1 Timothy 1:2 "To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

1. The Young

1 Timothy 4:12 "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."

2 Timothy 2:22a "So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness"

2. The Timid

2 Timothy 1:7 "for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control"

3. The Frail

1 Timothy 5:23 "No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments."

II. The Gospel is Threatened When _____ is Distorted

1 Timothy 1:3 "As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine"

Acts 20:29-31a "I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them ... Therefore be alert"

1 Timothy 1:4 "nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith."

Titus 1:14 "not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth"

1 Timothy 1:5 "The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."

Galatians 1:6-7 "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ."

III. The Gospel Must Not be Replaced With _____

1 Timothy 1:6-7 "Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions."

1 Timothy 1:8 "Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully"

1 Timothy 1:9-10 "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, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine"

IV. The Gospel Exists for the _____ of God

1 Timothy 1:11 "in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted."



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BACKGROUND:

The first letter to Timothy was written during Paul's last few years of life. Timothy was the son of a Greek Gentile father and Jewish mother named Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5). As we examine Paul's method of discipleship, we see that Timothy was more than just a young up-and-coming pastor on the scene. Paul was like a father to him. Paul considered him his spiritual child in the faith (1 Timothy 1:2) and partner in the Gospel. Paul took Timothy under his wing and invested into his relationship with him. As we will see as the sermon series progresses, proximity and intimacy are key components to Paul's style of discipleship.

DIGGING DEEPER:

Paul opens the letter by identifying himself as an apostle. An apostle is one who is “sent out” by God.

1. For what purpose does Jesus send His followers out?
2. How does this connect with the central mission of the church?
3. What can we do as believers to be considered true children in the faith?
4. What should we do to consider who our “children in the faith” are/should be?
5. What is the role of a steward?
6. Why is it important to understand that we are to be stewards of the gospel?

Paul urges Timothy to be on guard of false teachers and false doctrine (verse 3-11). As part of our role guarding the gospel, Paul describes believers as “stewards” (verse 4).

Paul describes the “aim of our charge is love”. This love comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith (verse 5)

7. What is the threat to the gospel if we swerve from these core values? (Read verse 6 and discuss)
8. How can we help others stay on course and not turn toward worldly values, the world's definition, and the world's example of love, purity, and faith?
- Paul describes some false teachers as those who have turned towards “vain discussions” and a desire to be teachers of which they don't understand (verse 7).**
9. What impact have you seen when you've encountered someone who teaches or preaches without understanding?
10. How can abiding in Christ and understanding His Word help us to identify false teaching and errant doctrine?
11. Jesus warned us of false Christs and false prophets that will attempt to deceive His followers. Read Matthew 24:23-27, 2 Peter 3:3, and Jude 1:17-18. How does understanding this reality help you to guard the gospel?

TAKING IT HOME:

Sound doctrine is in accordance with the gospel, not contrary to it. One role of a disciple is to assure that sound doctrine is being taught and guard against false teaching. In verse 11 Paul states that the gospel of glory is entrusted to us.

12. What does it mean to you to know that you are entrusted with the gospel?
13. How do you go about sharing it?
14. How adept are you at identifying vain discussions and falsehoods as they relate to the gospel? How do you go about correcting them with truth and love?