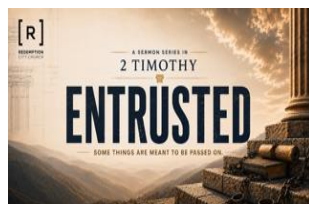




REDEMPTION
CITY CHURCH

The Anatomy of Conviction 2 Timothy 1:8-18



STICKY STATEMENT:

Eventually, what you believe will be tested. CONVICTION HOLDS.
Belief can be passive. Conviction is being convinced of a truth after that belief has been tested.

Three parts of the anatomy of conviction

1. KNOW _____ YOU BELIEVE. (vv. 8-10)

Paul tells Timothy not to be ashamed of Jesus or of Paul, but to be willing to suffer for the gospel. Paul may be in a Roman prison, but he calls himself Christ's prisoner.

Paul's perspective comes from his convictions. Rome is not ultimately in control of his life - Jesus is.

Following Jesus may cost you something. Conviction shows up when belief is put under pressure.

God saved us - not because of our works, but because of His purpose and grace in Christ Jesus. Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

You cannot have deep convictions about truths you barely know.

2. KNOW _____ YOU BELIEVE. (vv. 11-12)

Paul doesn't simply know about Christianity or about Christ.

Paul knows Christ Himself.

You can know Bible verses, Christian theology, church rhythms, and all kinds of things about God without actually knowing God.

Paul says: "I know" and "I am convinced." He has put the full weight of his life on Jesus Christ.

Paul's conviction is not tied to his circumstances. It is tied to Christ.
Eventually you will experience something you don't understand. When life hurts, will you crumble, or will you be able to say, "I know whom I have believed"?

Know what you believe. Know WHOM you believe - because **He** is the reason your conviction holds.

3. GUARD THE _____ YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN. (vv. 13-14)

Timothy didn't invent the gospel. Paul didn't invent the gospel. They received it - and neither of them had the authority to change it.

Neither do we.

The truth doesn't belong to us. The truth has been ENTRUSTED to us. As Christians, we are **WORD-BEARERS**. We bear the truth of the gospel and must guard it so that what we pass on remains pure and true.

We do not guard it alone. The Holy Spirit who dwells within us helps us remain faithful to the truth.

Conclusion

Paul knew what he believed, knew whom he believed, and guarded the truth entrusted to him.

Paul's conviction held. **WILL YOURS?**

Ask yourself:

- Do I actually know what I believe and why I believe it?
- Would my beliefs hold if they were put to the test?
- Do I truly know Jesus, or do I simply know things about Him?
- Do I remain faithful when I don't understand what He's doing?
- Have I allowed pressure or culture to change what I know is true?
- When following Jesus becomes costly, will my conviction hold?