

## 1 How to guard that "good deposit?"

- 2 Timothy 1:1-14

## 2 Scripture

- I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. (2 Tim 1:3 NIV)
- Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. (2 Tim 1:4–5 NIV)

## 3 Scripture

- For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. (2 Tim 1:6 NIV)
- For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (2 Tim 1:7 NIV)

## 4 Scripture

- And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. (2 Tim 1:11 NIV)
- That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. (2 Tim 1:12 NIV)

## 5 Scripture

- What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you — guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. (2 Tim 1:13–14 NIV)

## 6 Introduction

- Security is a big deal these days.
- That's because we have so much to guard --
  - our homes,
  - our possessions,
  - our money,
  - our data, and
  - even our identities.

## 7 Introduction

- The reason for this is that there are so many "bad guys" ready to exploit;
  - any holes in our defenses,
  - any weakness in our firewalls,
  - any lag in our virus programs,

- any failure to back up our documents, and
- any laxness with our personal information.

## 8 **Security Tools**

- At the same time, some impressive new tools are now available to help us fend off these attacks.
- Guarding our homes, for example, is now easier than ever, especially if we're comfortable with technology and are willing to spend top dollar for a state-of-the-art security system.

## 9 **Security Tools**

- With such systems, we can arm our home-security alarm with our smartphones even if we're not nearby at the time.
- We can receive email alerts every time our front door opens, even if we're miles away.
- And if we want to know who opened it, we can summon a 30-second video clip from a camera that monitors the door.

## 10 **Security Tools**

- We can also install electronic walls around our information, bank accounts and investments that allow us to control who has access to them.
- And then there are retinal scanners, thumb and fingerprint readers, passcodes, barcodes, motion sensors and more.
- But it's an ongoing struggle, and the bad guys keep figuring out clever new ways to take advantage of us.

## 11 **Faith Under Attack Too!**

- According to tonight's text the Apostle Paul tells his younger coworker Timothy to "guard the good deposit" that's been entrusted to him.
- By "the good deposit," Paul no doubt means the essential teachings of the Christian faith.

## 12 **Security Tools**

- So then, what does the Apostle Paul have in mind for Timothy?
- Are we Christians called to stack sandbags on our theological borders as a precaution against the relentless and encroaching tides of secularism, moral relativism, and cultural decline.
- Those questions are worth thinking about, because there's plenty happening in our country these days that at least some Christians interpret as attacks on our faith:

## 13 **Faith Security Threats**

- Some examples of this are:
  - Ten Commandment monuments being removed from government properties;
  - Prayer prohibited at school board meetings;
  - The rise of outspoken atheism;
  - Christian business people being sued for refusing services to those whose lifestyles they disapprove of;

- School sporting events scheduled on Sunday mornings;
- Businesses wishing shoppers a generic "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas";

#### 14 Faith Security Threats

- More examples of this are:
  - Churches' tax-exempt status periodically under fire;
  - The influx of secularity into our worship practices and social positions;
  - Certain movies and artwork that present a disrespectful or fallen image of Jesus;
  - And, there are also groups calling themselves "Christian" that advocate some distinctly un-Christian behavior and cults that distort Christian doctrine.

#### 15 Security Strategy

- In developing a "faith security strategy," let us look again at our text.
- The word "guard" appears twice, once in verse 12 and once in verse 14.
- In the latter, it is Timothy who is guarding.
- But it is in verse 12, it is Jesus who is guarding.

#### 16 The Good Deposit

- When Paul tells Timothy to guard the "good deposit," he is referring to the sound doctrines of the Christian faith.
- It was Timothy's duty as well as Titus and other men that Paul would send out to his churches to appoint elders and teach them the sound doctrines of the faith.
- And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. (2 Tim 2:2 NIV)

#### 17 Sound Doctrine

- In regard to doctrines not all doctrines are the same. Some are more important than others—especially those that teach us on how to be holy in Christ in an unholy world.
- Why is this important? Because one of these days we all will have to give an account for our faith and lives.
- This is why the Apostle Paul says to Timothy in his first epistle, Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Tim 4:16 NIV)

#### 18 Sound Doctrine

- In fact, preaching and teaching "sound doctrine" was the main point of Paul's epistle to Titus in Crete.
- According to Paul, the saying that the Cretans were liars, brutes, and lazy gluttons was true.
- Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith (Titus 1:13 NIV)

- In fact, Paul tells Titus that elders of the church must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that [they] can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. (Titus 1:9 NIV)

## 19 Sound Doctrine

- In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, Paul makes some startling remarks. He says . . .
- I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world. (2 Cor 10:2 NIV)
- What Paul is saying here is that he is begging the church that when he comes for his next visit, that he might not have to go ballistic over their low moral standards, which are no better than the world's.
- We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Cor 10:5 NIV)
- But I will come to you very soon, . . . and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have. (1 Cor 4:19 NIV)

## 20 Sound Doctrine

- To Timothy Paul says, If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. (1 Tim 6:3–4 NIV)
- In fact, in the last days this problem will become very acute.
- For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. (2 Tim 4:3 NIV)

## 21 Sound Doctrine

- So then, as the Apostle Paul has charged Timothy to guard the "good deposit," so should we.
- As Jude—our Lord's half brother has said . . .
  - I urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. (Jude 1:3 NIV)
  - For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. (Jude 1:4a NIV)
  - They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality . . . . (Jude 1:4b NIV)

## 22 Sound Doctrine

- So then, let us keep ourselves in God's word for it is the anchor of our souls.
- Without it we are also like a ship without a rudder blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. (Eph 4:14 NIV)
- For as we abide in God's word, Jesus will abide in us and in this form of spiritual intimacy we will bear life, good fruit, and the hope of glory.

## 23 Guarding the Promises

- In this same portion of Scripture, the Apostle Paul tells Timothy, I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he (Jesus) is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. (2 Tim 1:12 NIV)
- So then what is Jesus guarding?
- It is not the hope of our salvation?

#### 24 **Our Hope**

- Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. (2 Cor 5:1 NIV)
- Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day — and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. (2 Tim 4:8 NIV)
- Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. (Heb 10:23 NIV)

#### 25 **Our Hope**

- Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Pet 1:8–9 NIV)
- Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Col 3:23–24 NIV)

#### 26 **Treasure in Heaven**

- So then, the reason why we watch our doctrines closely is to make sure we are living the kind of life that will guarantee our inheritance.
- It is an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade, — kept for us in heaven. [See 1 Peter 1:4]
- Even Jesus said, . . . store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. (Matt 6:20 NIV)

#### 27 **Treasure in Heaven**

- To the saints who have wealth, the Apostle Paul tells Timothy . . .
  - Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. (1 Tim 6:18 NIV)
  - In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. (1 Tim 6:19 NIV)

#### 28 **Summary**

- The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. (1 Tim 4:1 NIV)
- Because of this, There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, . . . (2 Tim 3:1–3 NIV)

- Sad to say, not everyone will be guarding the “good deposit.”

## 29 **How To Guard the Good Deposit**

- Keep yourselves in the Word of God.
- Look in the mirror.
- Keep your conscience clean before both God and man.
- Keep yourselves in fellowship with Christians who honor God’s word.
- Keep your eyes on the prize!

## 30 **Conclusion**

- In this same passage on guarding the “good deposit,” the Apostle Paul tells Timothy something else.
- He says, Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you — guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. (2 Tim 1:14 NIV)
- The Holy Spirit is our moral compass. He leads and guides us into all truth. In fact, He is the Spirit of Truth.
- So then, when a sermon, teaching, or prophecy doesn’t have the ring of truth in your spirit, it is probably the Holy Spirit speaking to you to warn you by giving you witness.

## 31 **Conclusion**

- So then, let us keep ourselves in God’s Word (the good deposit) and be careful to walk it out.
- As we do, the voice of the Holy Spirit will not only become louder and more distinguishable, but significant enough to keep us from the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. (Eph 4:14 NIV)
- Therefore, let us keep in step with the Holy Spirit of God. As we do, we will not be ineffective or unproductive in our knowledge of God, and will never fall, and receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:8, 10-11)

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