

International Christian Fellowship of Oulu  
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**Part #3: The Protection of the Word of God Written: 2 Timothy  
1:13-14**

**Part #2: The Intention of the Word of God Written: 2 Timothy  
3:15-17**

Part #1: The Inspiration of the Word of God Written: 2 Timothy  
3:16,17

## **INTRO:**

Recently, I began a short series on the Word of God from Paul's second letter to Timothy. And for those of you who have been able to come to the Wednesday evening Bible studies, we have been studying Paul's first letter to Timothy...so over the last months we as a congregation have been really immersed in Paul and specifically, Paul to Timothy.

Unfortunately we will only be able to finish three of the 6 messages in this series as this is my last time speaking in ICFO for at least several months.

In the last two sermons I preached we looked at first, the INSPIRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD WRITTEN. Here we saw that Paul presents to Timothy the problem of opposition--he shows Timothy that the Gospel and the church are going to face serious opposition from men and we looked at three ways for WHY men will oppose: 1) Men are ignorant of the truth 2) Men hate the truth they do know 3) Man's depravity is deepening and common grace diminishing.

Paul then went on to tell Timothy that the way he is going to combat

this opposition against himself, the church, and the Gospel is through the WORDS OF GOD! And we saw how the Scriptures have literally been breathed out by God!

Then, in the second message, we looked at the INTENTION OF THE WORD OF GOD WRITTEN. We already knew that these words were the means by which we survive against opposition but as we looked into it we found there to be very specific purposes for the person who reads the Bible...for the un-believer it is the power of God to save! For the Believer, it is the power of God to sanctify. So we saw there are two categories of men: lost and saved, and there are two purposes for Scripture: save and sanctify.

So today we come to what will be the FINAL MESSAGE in this series on the Word of God, THE PROTECTION or PRESERVATION OF THE WORD OF GOD.

But first, before getting into the text let's go to the Lord in prayer...

### **3. Protection/Preservation of the Word of God Written... (GUARD the GOSPEL)**

Let's read again verses 13 and 14 as this will be our base passage from which we jump off to explore Paul's words to Timothy...

*2 Tim. 1:13-14 "Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you."*

#### **1) WHAT (is to be protected)?**

So, the first question we can ask as we approach this topic is, "What is to be protected?"

Well, Paul will show us that it is the THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS or the GOSPEL that we are to protect...

...But Paul uses **4 different titles** and with good reason, to describe this message. Let's briefly look at why he does this.

**Why does he feel, instead of just saying, "Protect the Gospel," the need to use different terminology?**

As we know the Bible is the inspired Words of God and God is not carelessly throwing phrases around that are neither here nor there. What God says has meaning! So let's see **WHY** Paul uses different terms to describe the Gospel...

→ TESTIMONY ABOUT OUR LORD (v. 8):

First, look at verse 8 of our text: *"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share in suffering for the Gospel by the power of God..."*

Paul first describes the Gospel as "the testimony about our Lord." What is he saying is this message, this Gospel?

Paul says back in 1 Corinthians 1:6 that the "testimony about Christ" was confirmed to the Corinthian church. This testimony is ABOUT Christ, who He is, what He did on earth...THIS IS AN ESSENTIAL ASPECT OF WHAT THE GOSPEL IS.

→ **It is the story of our Savior. "He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory." JESUS is the ESSENCE of the GOSPEL.**

→ GOSPEL / GOOD NEWS (v. 8)

Further, Paul uses the word Gospel--which is terminology we are very familiar with. Most people, Christian or not, would know that the word Gospel means "good news". But what exactly does Paul mean by GOSPEL?

Look with me at our text, verses 8 and 9: "...*but share in suffering for the **gospel** by the power of God, (9) who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began...*"

SO WHAT IS PAUL SAYING IS GOOD NEWS? He tells us in verse 9: "...*who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began...*"

THIS IS A MESSAGE OF **GRACE**. It is something we cannot earn, something we do not deserve! The Gospel is good news because it saves us from a state of spiritual deadness and brings us to spiritual life! Apart from this grace we are helpless and hopeless...

Further,...

→ SOUND WORDS

Look at verse 13: "Follow the pattern of the *sound words* that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus."

When Paul says, "Follow the **pattern...**" he is literally saying, follow the model or example. Example of what, Paul? His example of "Sound words..." literally, **HEALTHY DOCTRINE!**

→ I have often spoken about a trend permeating the so-called Evangelical churches across the world. That trend is of discounting important Biblical doctrines as barriers getting in

the way of love. Doctrines such as who God is and how we are to worship Him have been forgotten in the name of LOVE.

### **BUT...did you know that EVERYONE HAS DOCTRINE?**

Everyone is going to believe something! You either believe GOD IS SOVEREIGN in SALVATION (it is He who chooses whom He will save) or that GOD IS NOT SOVEREIGN in SALVATION (it is man who chooses whether He wants to be saved)...no matter which one you've chosen, THAT IS DOCTRINE.

#### FOR EXAMPLE:

Imagine someone making the bold claim, "FOOD IS BAD! We should not eat food!"

Then, in an effort to act on this bold statement, they stopped eating all vegetables, fruits, and meats. BUT then they begin eating, instead of vegetables, fruits, and meats, all sorts of candies, ice creams, and desserts.

#### **What have they done?**

*They've made a claim that food is bad and should not be eaten but all they've done is taken out the **healthy** food and put in its place **unhealthy** food!*

SADLY, that is exactly what many people are doing to God's Words...they are making a claim to forget doctrine and yet they are simply throwing away good, healthy doctrine and replacing it with junk-food doctrine!

Just as the person who has renounced all food has continued to eat but just replaced the good food with junk-food, so also these men have continued to teach and preach doctrine but they've simply replaced HEALTHY DOCTRINE with UN-

## HEALTHY DOCTRINE!

→ So...Paul says here we are to follow his example in SOUND DOCTRINE, in HEALTHY DOCTRINE! Paul wants us to be eating vegetables, fruits, and meats, NOT JUNK-FOOD!

[ **Personal Note:** “Pattern” is the Greek word *Upotuposis (hupo-two-poe-sis)* literally meaning *a pattern placed before one, held fast and copied, a model.* ]

## - THE GOOD DEPOSIT / TREASURE

PAUL uses one more term for the Gospel. Look with me at **verse 14:** *“By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.”*

Paul calls it here the GOOD DEPOSIT. If you go to the bank with 3,000 euros and give it to them to keep for you, you are expecting that they keep it for you safely. That is a deposit and it is a good deposit--**we don't go to the bank, with it's huge, meter thick, steel walls with our bags of trash.** Why not?

Because it's worthless! Why would we want our trash to be protected so carefully? THIS IS WHAT PAUL IS DOING WITH TIMOTHY: He is giving Timothy the most valuable item imaginable, the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Savior of mankind! Timothy is to guard it as a bank guards your money.

[ **Personal Note:** Greek word *Paratheke (para-thay-kay)* literally meaning *a deposit, a trust, or thing consigned to one's faithful keeping.* ]

→ Ok, so different words but they are all referring to the same thing: The testimony about our Lord is the Gospel! It is good news, it is

healthy, it is a treasure!

★ **AND I WANT TO PAUSE HERE FOR A MINUTE** and briefly describe to you or make clear what this treasure is, what this GOOD NEWS is...

As we look around our world, what do we see?

.....**Death, greed, hatred, bigotry, rampant immorality, murder, envy, strife**.....

this is the world we live in w/ a huge problem: **THE ♥ OF MAN IS WICKED.**

{ why do we still act surprised? }

That points us to examine our own hearts...what will you find? **IMAGINE IF I TOOK YOUR THOUGHTS AND PUT THEM ON A SCREEN FOR EVERYONE TO WATCH...**

Our hearts are wicked--how do I know? Because, like you, **I have a human heart**, second, **because out of our hearts comes our words and our actions**. We need a SAVIOR because without one we are left to ourselves and what have we just seen about ourselves? We are wicked men and women who care not for God's glory, only for our own.

**THIS IS WHERE JESUS COMES IN:**

[ Jesus Christ was crucified under the hands of men and buried in a tomb. Three days after being killed and buried he raised to life in accordance with what the Old Testament Scriptures prophesied would happen (1 Cor. 15:4). There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved than that of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12). He Himself said,

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6). ]

THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS: JESUS IS ALIVE!

And He has already paid the \$ for your sins...

...turn to Him, put your trust in Him--He tells us how we can receive this free gift of life, this salvation from ourselves: REPENT AND BELIEVE.

## 2) HOW (do you protect it)?

So we see that Paul illustrates to us vividly WHAT needs to be protected. Ok, great. Now...**how do we protect it?**

- v. 14: The power of the Holy Spirit

Look with me at verse 14 of our text: *“By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.”*

We are to guard the Gospel through **the power of the Holy Spirit.**

If you were here for my message two weeks ago, do you remember what I said about the Holy Spirit?

I sought to show you how the Holy Spirit, along with the Word of God, has the power to save unbelievers!

We looked at how the Holy Spirit regenerates us from a state of spiritual deadness to a state of spiritual life thereby awakening in us the desire for a savior to save us from our wickedness! And then how the Holy Spirit actually washes away the guilt of past sins and initially

sanctifies us.

But...what role does the Holy Spirit play in the believer actively guarding the Word of God once they've got it?

YEAH, I SEE THAT the Holy Spirit is instrumental in salvation--but after salvation, how does it help us guard what we've got?

Look seven verses back at 2 Timothy 1:7: *"...for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."*

→ He, the Holy Spirit, empowers us! He gives us boldness, love, and self-control over our flesh.

Turn quickly over to Colossians 1:28,29: *"Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me."*

What do we see here? The Holy Spirit working within us **is how we have the strength to toil and labor in obedience to Christ** and in fighting to protect this Gospel against all kinds of attacks.

Further...look back one verse at verse 6:

- v. 6: *"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..."*

→ We are called to "fan into flame" the gifts that God has given us!

★ **This presents to us a beautiful balance between human**

## **responsibility and God's working.**

The Holy Spirit is working within us, as we see in v. 7, yet, as we see in v. 6, we are called to use the gift(s) God has given us!!!!

In other words: **“Divine empowerment but human instrumentality.”** - Charles Vuolo

I've often pointed us to **Philippians 2:12,13**, and here it is again. What does Paul say in Philippians 2:12b,13? *“...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”*

There is a confluence of God working with man's responsibility.

→ **This is why we need pastors-they are called to use their gifts to protect the Gospel...** but: this has a secondary application to all Christians. No Believer, pastor or not, is to be TIMID, SHY, or ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL.

So, HOW do we PROTECT the Gospel?

★ **Through the power of God working in us and in our obedience to God in acting on the gifts He has given to us.**

LET'S LOOK NOW AT **WHY** THE GOSPEL NEEDS TO BE GUARDED...

**3) WHY (does it need to be guarded)?**

I want to show you two reasons why the Gospel must be protected, one being positive and one being negative. First, positively...

[ + ] Positively: The Gospel is the **only** message that gives eternal life to people lost in sins!

[ MAN IS LOST AND JESUS CHRIST IS THEIR ONLY LIFE LINE ] Look with me at verses 1, 9, 10, 12:

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, **10**and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.

→ Christianity is the only religion of Grace. **There are only two religions in the world: Religion of Jesus Christ vs. Religion of Human Achievement.** The very definition of religion is that of man seeking to reconcile a broken relationship with God. (EXPOUND)

[ - ] Negatively: We must protect this Gospel because of **external opposition, and internal temptation.**

★ We have recently seen WHY men will oppose us: 1)

Ignorant of the truth 2) they hate the truth they do know 3) depravity is deepening and common grace diminishing.

But here we see also HOW men will oppose us: Look at verses 8 and 12: *“Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,”*

*“...which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.”*

**MEN OPPOSE US THROUGH SEEKING TO SHAME US.** This shame comes in many forms:

- Physical persecution (burning at the stake, torches used by Nero for his parties, etc.)
- Verbal persecution (making fun, hate-filled words, etc.)
- Emotional persecution (ignoring, rejection, drawing away, etc.)

But whatever form this external opposition takes, it is meant to shame us. Whether you are naked and beaten in front of a crowd preparing to burn you alive or you are rejected by your co-workers and labeled as a narrow-minded Jesus-freak, this world wishes to SHAME YOU.

★ Not only is there **external opposition**, but Paul tells us there will be **internal temptation**:

Turn only a few pages over to 2 Timothy 4:3: *“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions...”*

There is the temptation within your own heart to compromise the message of the Gospel in order to get people to listen and to avoid the shame from men.

The time is coming, Paul says, when people will not endure sound teaching so, those who give it will be hated by these men.

They “will not endure” it. They will resist it, they will wage war against it--because of this you and I are inevitably tempted to avoid this whole predicament.

And the way to avoid it is to take out of the message what we know the people do not want to hear. By doing this, we avoid this whole “suffering” thing.

Paul warns us: DO NOT GIVE IN TO THIS TEMPTATION.

John Piper’s words ring true here when he said, “You will be shamed for the Gospel but you do not have to be ashamed of the Gospel.”

→ THEREFORE THIS GOSPEL MUST BE GUARDED **WHY?**  
BECAUSE THERE ARE MEN OUT THERE SEEKING TO DESTROY  
IT AND THERE IS A MAN IN HERE - ♥ - SEEKING TO HIDE IT AND  
CHANGE IT.

#### **4) WHO (is to protect it)?**

Briefly, let’s take a look at WHO is called to protect this Gospel.

**Paul:** Certainly it's been entrusted to Paul as we see very clearly in v. 11: “...for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher...”

**Timothy:** Timothy also is clearly being addressed as he is the main recipient of this letter. Paul addresses him on a very personal level, telling him that as he, Timothy, uses his gift of pastoral leadership to preach the Gospel, he will suffer for it (v. 6 coupled with v. 8).

Paul says explicitly in v. 14 that both himself and Timothy have been commissioned for this work. In 2 Timothy 4:2 we see Paul commanding Timothy to “preach the Word.”

**All Pastor-teachers:** Further, if we look at 2 Timothy 2:2 we see that all faithful and able preachers are commanded to protect this Word! Timothy is told to entrust this good deposit to other men as Paul has to Timothy.

**BUT...**

**What about ALL believers?**

→ Turn with me to Acts 8. I want to look at the first 4 verses of Acts 8:

*“And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the Apostles. 2Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. 3But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. Now those who were scattered went about preaching the Word.”*

Who were the ones that were scattered across the regions of Judea and Samaria? Was it those who were the teachers? Well, what does the end of verse 2 say? “...except the Apostles.”

THE ONES SCATTERED WERE WHAT YOU COULD CALL THE LAY-PEOPLE, the everyday, normal Christians...not the pastors and teachers.

And did you notice what those who were scattered were doing? Read again verse 4: *“Now those who were scattered went about preaching the Word.”*

→ I must be careful here. I do not want to take a charge given specifically to pastors and place an unnecessary burden on each of you who have not been gifted with this gift. However, Jesus tells each of us clearly that **if we are ashamed of Him, He will be, in so many words, ashamed of us in the last day. If we reject Him, He will reject us.**

**WHERE DOES THIS LEAVE US?** Asking this question: Are all Christians meant to verbalize the Gospel? And getting this answer: YES! AND WE ARE TO VERBALIZE IT ACCURATELY, having SOUND DOCTRINE!

**[ Personal Notes:** Matt. 28: Jesus gives it to the church. Why? "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." The Apostles wouldn't be there until the end of the age.

Everyone is to be involved! Financial support, prayer, gifts, etc...

{ Kerusso=verb, officially herald (word used in 2 Tim. 4). Euangelizomai=evangelize (word used in Acts 8). 1 Peter 3:15, 1 Thessalonians 1:8-Faithful, rank-and-file Christians. 1 Corinthians 11:1-What are we to imitate Paul in? His whole life was to verbally proclaim the gospel; there is speaking involved. Matthew 5:16-How are they going to see your good works and know to glorify God if you don't give verbal affirmation of your faith...why are you a nice guy? Identify with Christ. } ]

**In conclusion**...there are three things we are to do after having heard these truths:

## **5) Applications (what we need to do in light of this):**

### **a) Embrace the gospel in its entirety and beautiful facets**

Do you remember the EXAMPLE of the diamond? The gospel is the promise of eternal life; we need to know it, understand it, believe it, and treasure it, and ACT on it.

If you are here this afternoon and cannot say with confidence that you have embraced this Gospel let me say this: SEE IT AS IT TRULY IS. If you drink of this water you will never thirst again. Apart from the work of Jesus we are left to our own devices. We are left to figuring out a clever way to convince ourselves that we are going to be OK, that God is going to understand.

When the fact of the matter is GOD IS NOT GOING TO UNDERSTAND. Why? Because you are not a good person. Sure, you may build hospitals, give 10% to charity, and not kick the cat, but did you know that your goodness is not measured on your actions? It is measured in your motivations. TALK ABOUT THE ESSENCE OF WHAT SIN IS.

### **b) Protect this gospel through...**

★ Pray for preachers not to compromise  
- FOR ICFO: Pray for pastors who will be these kinds of men!!!!!!!!!!

★ Support financially those who FAITHFULLY preach the

gospel [ be careful where your money goes! ]

★ Ensure that you, in your witnessing, don't cut the sharp edges off of the gospel!

Jesus suffered. Why? Because He spoke truth unashamedly and people HATED IT. They either turned to Him in repentance and faith or they turned against Him with such hatred that they nailed Him to a cross.

This leads into the last application...

### **c) Expect the suffering**

All over Scripture we read of men and women suffering for the Gospel's sake. This suffering is embraced and exulted in...HOW ARE WE TO PROTECT THIS GOSPEL?

When the suffering comes, do not soften the edges, do not run away from speaking, and do not be ashamed...EXPECT, EMBRACE, & EXULT.

**[ Personal Notes: (1 Pet. 4:12, 2 Tim. 3:12), embrace the suffering (2 Timothy 1:12), and exult in the suffering (1 Peter 4:13)...Expect, embrace, exult! (16 oz. to the lb.) ]**