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| **SERIES** | RALLY – 2 TIMOTHY |
| **BIBLE** | 2 TIMOTHY 1:8-14 |
| **TITLE/TOPIC** | GUARD |
| **OVERVIEW** | We have all been faced at one time or another and in various degrees the pushback of our faith. This can easily lead us to shy away from being bold about our hope in Jesus. In fact for some, they are tempted to not go public with their faith at all, for that very same reason. The fear of rejection. Timothy was a young leader struggling for the courage to remain faithful to the Gospel, especially when his surrounding culture was pushing back on the truth and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul encourages Timothy to guard what has been entrusted to him.  To guard means to protect against damage or harm.  The same charge that Paul gives Timothy to guard is the same for us today.  How do we guard what had been entrusted to us, even when the surrounding world repels or even attacks the truth of the Gospel. |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | Letter Background: (Taken from B. Moss Week 1)   * The church is beginning to experience major persecution in Rome, being used as a scapegoat by Nero for a fire that broke out. * False-teaching of the gospel is on the rise. * Paul is in prison in Rome, knowing that his execution is coming. * The older leader is writing to his younger protégé, warning him of the challenges ahead and encouraging him to press on in faithfulness.   The tone of the letter is an older mentor speaking into the life of a younger leader, speaking into their life to impart wisdom and encouragement  Verse 8 starts with therefore, causing us to look back for the reason.  Because we’ve been given a spirit of power, love, and a self-control we can guard what has been entrusted.  **THE SAME POWER THAT SAVES US**  **ALSO STRENGTHENS US TO GUARD**  **IN ORDER TO GUARD:**  **BE UNASHAMED OF THE POWER THAT SAVED YOU – V8-11**  Paul was unashamed because he had first hand experienced the power of God in his own life. So much that he states that he is not Rome’s prisoner but Jesus’. Paul is laying out the grander perspective for suffering, it’s not a shame or a failure, it’s a privilege and a honor. Fully aware that what was hidden before (eternal life) has now been revealed in Christ Jesus, and that changes everything. It revealed the weight of salvation, Jesus’ Kingdom, our calling in Christ, and the merit for how all that was accomplished. Not by our merits but by the grace and purpose of God.  **BE CONFIDENT THROUGH A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS – V12** This kind of clarity and confidence doesn’t come through mere knowledge. Paul was educated before his encounter with Christ. Rather it was that encounter with the risen Savior, Jesus Christ, that began the relationship that would help Paul maintain clarity of purpose during difficult times.  Paul says, “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.”  Without a relationship with Christ you simply can’t fabricate what is necessary to endure and guard what has been entrusted. The reason for that is that it comes from Jesus himself. Paul admits reliance and confidence in Christ as the one who is able. Paul doesn’t claim to be able but claims to know the one who is.  **BE COMMITTED TO SOUND DOCTRINE – V13**  Paul knew that it was imperative for Timothy to “follow the pattern of sound words” that Paul had taught him. This can be understood as the charge to repel false teachings and remain convinced and submissive to sound doctrine.  This also shows that sound doctrine is something that should be taught correctly. Paul was charging Timothy to join him in the calling to proclaim the Gospel regardless of the consequences.  If we are going to guard we need to stay “under” the protection and wisdom of sound doctrine. If you are more aware of the world’s problems then the truth of the Scriptures then you are committing yourself to something else. However, if we are saturating ourselves with the truth of God’s word, words handed down to us for the purpose of spiritual nourishment, enlightenment, wisdom for hard choices, and intimate information that relationships provide, then when the world goes right or left we will have clarity for direction even when opposed.  **BE DEPENDANT ON THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – V14**  Lastly, Paul points to the only way to accomplish the task of guarding what has been entrusted. It is only by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. There is no power in of ourselves. The power we experience in our lives is supplied by the Holy Spirit. In essence, God entrusts us with the Gospel to proclaim it but also to guard it so that it doesn’t become diluted with false teachings, and all this is accomplished by the power He supplies through His Spirit that dwells inside the genuine follower of Christ. |
| **GOSPEL** | How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?  A relationship with Jesus is both the beginning of life and the means for completion of it. He gives our lives purpose and meaning.  John 1:12-13 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. |
| **NEXT**STEPS | Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | Disciple  Become a guarder of the Word by learning it first. Put yourself under it as a student and studier. Where do you start? BEGIN blue book, get a mentor to help you learn more about Christ, asking Him all the while to fill you with the power needed. |