

“Guarding the Good Deposit”

A Study of 2 Timothy, The Rev. Jeffrey S. Miller

I. A Moving Letter (circa 64 AD)

A. Paul’s Last Will and Testament

1. The apostle is in prison awaiting execution (1:8)
 - a. Mammertine Jail
2. His work is over – 20 years and 20,000 miles
 - a. 2 Timothy 4:6-8
3. Forgotten and Forsaken
 - a. 2 Timothy 1:16-17
4. Lonely
 - a. “Come before winter” -- 2 Timothy 4:12

B. The Future of the Church is Uncertain

1. 64 A.D. Persecution under Emperor Nero
2. “Mystery” religions appearing daily
3. Society in collapse: Morally, Spiritually, Physically

C. Paul Knows his time is up!

1. 20+ years and 20,000 miles logged
2. 2 Timothy 4:6-8
- *3. Paul martyred 64 AD

II. Who is Timothy?

A. A Convert from Lystra – Acts 16:1

- i. Jewish mother and Greek father
- ii. Paul’s faithful companion for 15 years
 - a. Philippians 2:20 – “I have no one like him”
 - b. I Corinthians 4:17 -- “My beloved Child”
 - c. I Thess. 3:2 – “Brother and God’s servant”
- iii. Pastor in Ephesus

B. Young

- i. I Tim 4:12 “Let no one look down on you...”
- ii. 2 Timothy 2:22 “Flee Youthful passions”
- iii. Not beyond his thirties...

C. Sickly

- i. I Timothy 5:23

D. Sensitive and Shy

- i. I Corinthians 16:10-11 “Put him at ease”
- ii. 2 Timothy 1:7-8; 2:1; 3:12; 4:5
- iii. 2 Timothy 1:4 (Tears)

E. The MAN called to fill Paul’s shoes!!!

- i. Can you imagine how this man must have felt?
 (“Young in years, Frail in physique, retiring in disposition”)
- ii. How would he do it?
 - a. 2 Timothy 1:14

III. Why Study 2 Timothy?

A. We are living in a Similar Time!!!

1. World is in Moral, Spiritual, Physical Chaos
2. Many Competitors to Christianity
3. Christians relaxing their grip on the Gospel
4. A New Generations of Timothys is needed!

Guard the Good Deposit!!

I. The Customary Beginning

II. “An Apostle”

A. *apostolos* – “messenger” or “sent one”

1. General Sense – Acts 14:4; Hebrews 3:1
2. Specific/Solemn Sense – Mk 3:13-14; Acts 1:23-26
 - a. With the Lord from the beginning
 - b. Eyewitness to the Resurrection
 - c. Given Authority – John 14:12-14; Matthew 18:18
3. Twelve + One
 - a. Paul claimed apostleship!
 - i. Eyewitness to Resurrection – I Corinthians 15:3-8
 - ii. Specifically Chosen – Acts 9:15; 2 Timothy 1:1
 - iii. Accepted by others – 2 Peter 3:15

III. Why is Apostleship Significant?

- A. Jesus continues to speak through the Apostles
- B. The Apostles Speak with HIS authority
- C. One, Holy, Catholic, and APOSTOLIC faith!
 1. Ephesians 2:19-20

D. What Paul says bears DIVINE authority!

1. Human sexuality – Romans 1:18-32
2. Husbands and Wives – Ephesians 5:22-33
3. Place of State in human affairs -- I Timothy 2:2

IV. “To my beloved child”

- *A. Grace – Favor to the Undeserving
- *B. Peace – Serenity
- *C. Mercy – Help for the Helpless

THINGS TO PRAY FOR ON BEHALF OF
“OUR BELOVED CHILDREN”

Faith of our Fathers and Mothers

2 Timothy 1:3-7

I. Marriage – the First Great Christian Institution

- A. Genesis 2:18 – Something is NOT good!
- B. The First Command – Genesis 1:28

II. Marriage is foundational to Society

- A. First Education done in Home
 1. Formal Education develops from this
- B. First Health Care done in Home
 1. Hospitals, clinics, hospices flow from this
- C. First Form of Governance
 1. Patriarchal, Monarchical, Democratic govts. arise

III. Marriage and Family under Assault!

- A. Ephesians 6:1-9; 10-18

IV. “Family” Ministry 2 Timothy 1:3-5

- A. Raising Godly Generations
 1. Children are a Blessing
 - a. Psalm 127:3-5
 2. Raise them in the WAY
 - a. Proverbs 22:6
 - b. Ephesians 6:4
 - c. Baptismal Service – BCP 301ff
 - d. The Greatest Gift is Faith – Mark 8:36
 - i. “Compromise in Egypt” – Exodus 10
 3. PRIMARILY Parents’ Responsibility!!!

a. Parents must set parameters and walls

i. To keep good IN and evil OUT

b. Love is DISCIPLINE!!

i. Hebrews 12:5-6

c. The stakes are HIGH

i. Matthew 18:1-6

4. The Danger is always in the Extremes!!

a. Jesus battled the Pharisees and the Sadducees!

Raising a Godly Generation

Matthew 18:1-6

9 Pointers for Parents from

“Heaven Helps the Home” by Howard Hendricks and Yours Truly

1. Provide an atmosphere in the home that builds warm, close, personal relationships. Make sure the home is a place of belonging and love. That means spending time with your children!
2. Be a good example to your children. Your faith and values will be more likely *caught* by your kids than *taught* to your kids. Don’t be afraid to admit mistakes. Kids need to see that you are human and big enough to accept grace and forgiveness. Then they will grow up into adults who can forgive and accept forgiveness as well.
3. Allow gradual emancipation from the apron strings of parental authority. Begin early to feed them responsibility, a little at a time. Evaluate the results and adjust their freedom according to their ability to handle it.
4. When children need guidance and counsel, provide a relaxed, informal setting. Spend time building a warm relationship (not friendship) with your child so that he or she will be more willing to accept your counsel.
5. Set limits. Children want and need the security of boundaries and restrictions. But discipline your children only in the context of love. Your children will not accept your limits unless they know they are loved, and you tell them you love them not only with words, but more importantly with your time, attention, and genuine interest.
6. Apply the law of natural consequences as they grow up. As your children grow in their ability to make decisions, let them decide – but

also let them live with the results of their decisions. If we make all their decisions for them, they will lose confidence in their own ability to make decisions. If we bail them out and shield them from the consequences of their decisions, they will grow up with an irresponsible attitude, expecting never to have to deal with consequences. In some cases, it's healthy for children to make mistakes and accept the consequences – as long as they are not consequences that cause serious or lifelong harm. (Beyond 18 they are NOT children)

7. Manage their expectations with honesty and love! They CANNOT be ANYTHING they want to be! To tell them this is to set them up for failure, disappointment, and anger!

8. Teach your children that their worth is to be found in having been made in the Image of God NOT in social acceptance, financial success, intellectual prowess, or good looks! (JOHN 3:16)

9. MOST IMPORTANTLY, surround your children with a fortress of prayer and with the Word. (Psalm 119:11) Trust the Holy Spirit to care for them, cover for your inevitable occasional mistakes, and bring your children (HIS children) to a place of faith and maturity.

1 Peter 4:8-9 (ESV)

“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.”

2 Timothy 1:8ff

Suffering for the Gospel

I. What is the GOSPEL?

A. *euangelion* – “GOOD NEWS”

B. Good News of Salvation!

1. Saved from What?

a. Death and Wrath Ephesians 2:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:10

C. Sin and Slavery

1. Birth – Psalm 51:5

2. Conquest – Psalm 19:3

3. Debt – Romans 6:23

D. Christ saves us from...

1. Sin's Penalty

2. Sin's Power

3. Sin's presence

E. How does Christ save us from Sin?

1. Redemption!

a. Hosea and Gomer

II. Saved *FOR* something!

A. Holy Life – 2 Timothy 1:9

1. I Thessalonians 4:7; I Corinthians 1:2

B. Immortality – 2 Timothy 2:10 (Created to be eternal creatures)

1. Take the Long View – Romans 12:2

2. The Problem with Secularism – *saeculum* (Latin)

a. Humanism – “You will be like God” (Daniel 4:30)

b. Relativism – “What is truth?” (John 18:37-38)

c. Materialism – “Madonna Mindset!” (Matthew 6:19-21)

d. Pragmatism – “It works for me!” (Philippians 4:8)

C. Warnings about being Shortsighted

1. Parable of Ten Virgins – Matthew 25:1-13

2. Parable of Talents – Matthew 25:14-30

3. The Great Assize – Matthew 25:31-46

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing

Tune my heart to sing Thy grace

Streams of mercy, never ceasing

Call for songs of loudest praise

Jesus sought me when a stranger

Wandering from the fold of God

He, to rescue me from danger

Interposed His precious blood

O to grace how great a debtor

Daily I'm constrained to be

Let that grace now, like a fetter

Bind my wandering heart to Thee

Alleluia, sing to Jesus!
his the sceptre, his the throne:
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark the songs of holy Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
Jesus out of every nation
has redeemed us by his blood!

Alleluia! bread of heaven,
here on earth our food, our stay:
Alleluia! here the sinful
Flee to thee from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

Timothy's Duty In Relation to the Gospel...

A. Man's Duty in Relation to the Gospel

1. Receive it!
2. Live by it!

B. The Believer's duty in Relation to the Gospel

1. Communicate it! – 2 Timothy 1:11
 - a. By word and deed
 - i. Personal NOT Private
 - i. kerygma and didache
2. Suffer for it! – 2 Timothy 1:8; 11-12
3. Guard it! – 2 Timothy 1:12-18
 - a. "Sound/Healthy" words
 - b. "Good/Precious" Deposit

II. Why does Christian Life entails Suffering and Guarding?

- A. Many live as enemies of the cross – Phil 3:18
- B. People have "itchy ears" – 2 Timothy 4:1