

Title: Guarding the Deposit
Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:20 and 21
Series: The Pastoral Epistles

1. Introduction –

a. I want us to begin by rereading a portion of 1 Timothy that we read and studied months ago.

i. **1 Timothy 3:15** if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

ii. Throughout history, the church has stood on biblical truth. In the midst of terrible persecutions from the world and the evil attacks of the false teachers from within, the true church of God has preached, believed, and guarded the truth of God.

iii. We are, as Hebrews states: ...surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...men and women whom have bled and died in order to safeguard the truth of God's word. They guarded, proclaimed, and handed God's word to us and we must do the same for the proceeding generation.

b. The problem that we face in our modern time is our world's aversion to truth. The world, like Pontus Pilate did in John 18:38, asks, "What is truth?"

i. The question is asked not longing for the truth but to deny any notion that there is truth. We live in a time, where we believe in nothing and there are no absolutes. Our world encourages each person to determine his or her own version of the

truth and this terribly ungodliness has seeped into the church. The world declares:

1. There is no truth.
2. If there were such a thing as truth, it cannot be known.
3. If there is truth, there is certainly no religious truth.

c. We find our society in this place. Sadly, many churches have also compromised the truth, replacing it with false methods and ideology disguised as gospel truth.

- i. However, Beloved, when this happens, we stop being a church and become a mere organization. When the truth of Scripture is compromised, our relationship with God is shattered.

d. In our passage, Paul advances the absolute truth of the Gospel. He exhorts Timothy to invest himself in guarding that truth. Paul's exhortation to Timothy and the Ephesians to guard the truth, calls the church throughout all times to do the same.

2. Verse 20: O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge,"

- a. **O Timothy:** When Paul uses this phrase, he address the man of God from a place of genuine, heart-felt emotion. **O Timothy** demonstrates the importance of what is about to be said, the groaning of his heart. This is a sincere and emotional plea from the Apostle to Timothy, and by God's grace, to all ministers, and Christians that are entrusted with the Word.

- b. ...**guard**: is from the word used of keeping valuables in a safe place.
- i. A church is guarding the truth when it appropriately handles the Word of God. Whether or not a church teaches and lives out divine truths is the key issue, because the church's responsibility before God is to guard and proclaim the truth of scripture. The greatest crime any church can commit would be to compromise on the word of God. Consider what the Apostle says to Timothy in this first and in the second epistle in regards to the sacredness of the gospel.

1. Guarding requires Purity: **1 Timothy 1:3** As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine,

a. Different doctrines are not truth and lead to perdition.

2. Guarding requires Teaching: **1 Timothy 3:2** Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

3. Guarding requires Training: **1 Timothy 4:6** If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.

4. Guarding requires Devotion: **1 Timothy 4:13** Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.
5. Guarding requires Vigilance: **1 Timothy 4:16** Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.
6. Guarding requires Labor: **1 Timothy 5:17** Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.
7. Guarding requires Exposing the false: **1 Timothy 6:3-4(A)** If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, (4) he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing....
8. Guarding requires Diligence: **2 Timothy 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. (14) By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.
9. Guarding requires Faithfulness: **2 Timothy 2:2** and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to

faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

10. Guarding requires Precision: **2**
Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.
11. Guarding requires Conviction: **2**
Timothy 3:13-14 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. (14) But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it
12. Guarding requires Preaching: **2**
Timothy 4:1-2 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: (2) preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.
13. Guarding requires Sacrifice: **2**
Timothy 4:5-7 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (6) For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. (7) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

- c. ...**the deposit**: God has made a deposit of Gospel treasure into our care. We will give an account for this Gospel deposit.
 - d. ...**entrusted to you**: committed to a person, given a sacred trust
 - i. **1 Thessalonians 2:3-4** For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, (4) but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.
 - e. Danger: **Avoid the irreverent babble**: The word **avoid** means to turn away from. False doctrine must be avoided. **Irreverent babble** – The useless vain arguments that lead only to ungodliness
 - f. ...**and contradictions**: conflict
 - g. ...**of what is falsely called “knowledge**: Paul has addressed the thought of false “**knowledge**” before.
 - i. **1 Timothy 6:3-4(A)** If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, (4) he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy...
3. Verse 21: for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you.
- a. The danger of false teaching is clearly given to us in this verse. It causes some to **swerve (deviate or miss the mark) from the faith.**

- i. **2 Peter 2:1-2** But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. (2) And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed.
- b. **Commentary**: True Christians avoid this error by guarding the deposit that has been entrusted to them. We come to God's word.
 - i. We must:
 1. Believe the Word – **John 5:24** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.
 2. Honor the Word – **Job 23:12** I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food.
 3. Love the Word – **Psalms 119:97** Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.
 4. Obey the Word – **John 8:31** So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,
 5. Proclaim the Word – **2 Timothy 4:2** preach the word; be ready in season and out of

season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

6. Defend the Word – **Jude 1:3** Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

7. Study the Word – **2 Timothy 2:15** Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

c. **Grace be with you:** this phrase is in the plural sense. In other words, although Paul has been speaking and exhorting the minister, he has also been speaking to and exhorting the congregation. Timothy must not be the only one **guarding the deposit that has been entrusted**. He is to ensure that the church does the same thing.

i. The work of **guarding the deposit that has been entrusted to us** is a work that require the **grace** of our Lord.

4. Benediction:

a. **Psalms 119:97** Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.

Public Reading of Scripture 2 Timothy 4:1-7