

Steadfast in Sound Doctrine

II Timothy 1:13-14 *Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.*

This verse speaks of the believer's 2-fold responsibility of sound doctrine:

- ***“Hold fast”***: retain or adhere or stick to
- ***“keep”***: guard, protect

Hold fast the form of sound words

- ***“the form”***: a brief summary or exposition

The Fundamentals of the Faith

- ❖ **The Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ**
- ❖ **The Deity of Jesus Christ**
- ❖ **The Blood Atonement of Jesus Christ**
- ❖ **The Resurrection of Jesus Christ**
- ❖ **The Second Coming of Christ**
- ❖ **The Inspiration of Scripture**
- ❖ **Salvation by Grace through Faith alone**

Today we are looking at the fundamental doctrine of:

Salvation by Grace through Faith alone

Our focus is being steadfast in this doctrine

How?

I. Guarding and Protecting the Gospel of Grace

The gospel is committed to our trust

- I Corinthians 9:17 *For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.*
 - ***“dispensation”***: the management, oversight, Lit: stewardship
- I Timothy 1:11 *According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.*

A. God is trusting us to proclaim it

- I Thessalonians 2:4 *But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts*

B. God is trusting us to protect it

- Philippians 1:7 *Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.*
- (v. 17) *knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.*
 - **“set”**: put or set in any place, often use to mean “to stand”

II. Standing for the purity and the clarity of the gospel.

A. The purity of the gospel.

The purity of the gospel is made possible by:

1. Keeping works in their proper place

a. Works do not precede salvation

- Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*
- II Timothy 1:9 *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,*
- Titus 3:5 *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

b. Works should follow salvation

- Ephesians 2:10 *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*
 - **“unto”**: A primary preposition properly meaning of time, place, order,
- Titus 3:8 *This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.*

2. Understanding to mix works with grace perverts the gospel

- Galatians 1:6-7 *I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.*
 - **“trouble”**: to disturb, agitate or stir up. Here, it refers to the deep emotional disturbance the Galatian believers experienced.
 - **“pervert”**: To turn something into its opposite; turning the message of God's undeserved favor toward sinners into a message of earned and merited favor.
 - Perverting the gospel is done by adding human merit or work (the law) to the gospel of Christ.
 - Romans 11:6 *And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.*
 - **“no more”**: no longer, no further
- ❖ **Human effort and God's grace are mutually exclusive ways to salvation**

3. Making a distinction between Salvation and Service

- II Timothy 2:15 *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*
 - a. **The message of Salvation is about what Christ did for sinners.**
 - b. **The message of Service is about what believers do for Christ.**

B. The clarity of the gospel.

Clarity is made possible by:

1. Understanding the Devil's objective

- II Corinthians 11:3 *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so*

your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

➤ **“beguiled”**: deceived

- I Corinthians 14:33 *For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace*

2. Choosing our words carefully

Clarity is a matter of choice (It doesn't happen by chance)

a. Utilizing words that are easy to understand

- I Corinthians 14:8-9 *For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.*

b. Using words that are clear and plain

- II Corinthians 3:12 *Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech:*

❖ ***If there is a mist in the pulpit, there is a fog in the pew***

❖ ***Look at “Commonly used Phrases” handout***

III. Fighting the Good fight

- II Timothy 4:7 *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:*
- I Timothy 6:12 *Fight the good fight of faith,*

A. Make this a priority

In the way you present it

In the tracts you use

In the missionaries you support

In the church you attend

B. Determine to be steadfast in the doctrine of salvation.

How?

❖ **Guarding and Protecting the Gospel of Grace**

❖ **Standing for the purity and the clarity of the gospel.**

❖ **Fighting the Good fight**