

OKOTOKS EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

SHINING A LIGHT ON AUTHENTIC CHRISTIANITY

LIVING IN TRUTH (2 TIMOTHY 1:3-14)

APRIL 8, 2018



SERMON OUTLINE

**When the truth about Jesus is Challenged, Rest confidently
in the Moment you First believed**

1. Because ... the truth about Jesus Will be Challenged

2. Because ... the truth about Jesus was a Gift Revealed by God

What do I need to do with what I have heard today?

MAIN POINT

As followers of Christ, we will face challenges to our faith, but through God's power, we can remain loyal to our faith.

THINKING THINGS THROUGH

Connect the sermon to the study.

1. If you are a loyal supporter of one sports team, why are you loyal to that specific team?

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2. What does it look like to support your team even when they're having a losing season? What keeps you from dropping them and supporting the more promising team instead?

3. What are some of the other things in life that we can and should be intensely loyal about?

Leader: When the apostle Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy, he was in prison in Rome and expected any day to become a martyr for the gospel. He affirmed his unflagging loyalty to Christ and appealed for Timothy to exhibit loyalty, too. Today's reading and discussion will challenge us to remain faithful to Christ until He returns.

DIGGING DEEPER

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

> [HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 TIMOTHY 1:3-8.](#)

4. Why do you think Paul mentioned Timothy's family heritage of faith? How does this play a role for some of us in our spiritual lives?

5. What did Paul mean when he told Timothy to "fan into flame the gift of God" (v. 6) that was within him? How do we do this? (Compare v. 7 with Gal. 5:22-25.)

Leader: Paul wanted Timothy to keep stirring up God's gift, the ministry Timothy had received through the first-century church action of the laying on of hands. Paul was reminding Timothy that it was time to add fuel and fan the coals of his ministry into an open flame by recalling the passion he had felt at his ordination into ministry and with the presence of the Holy Spirit in his life. God's desire for His people is to demonstrate a strong, enduring lifestyle of faith, even if that genuine faith resembles glowing coals hidden beneath the ashes of long-past victories.

6. What power from God does Paul remind Timothy of? How do you think Paul wanted Timothy to use that spiritual strength? How would that offset a spirit of timidity or fear?

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7. When are you most likely to feel fear or shame in regard to the things you believe? How do you see verse 7 working itself out in that situation?

8. Why is it so important to affirm the spiritual gifts and callings of your loved ones? What kind of impact might this have on their lives and their faith?

Leader: As Timothy's spiritual father, Paul modeled a life of faith in Christ and commitment to the gospel, nurtured the gifts God had given Timothy, and challenged Timothy to live up to his calling. As the spiritual leaders in our homes, it is our responsibility to affirm the value of our family members to help them embrace who God made them to be. Every person is created with unique gifts, talents, and callings, and spiritually minded friends and family members can remind us of these things, and of the truth of our convictions. Having God's Spirit enables us to be bold yet compassionate as we stand up to those who deny and persecute the faithful.

> HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 TIMOTHY 1:9-10.

9. How does reflecting on God's grace in our salvation help us stand boldly in the face of criticism or opposition?

10. What can we do to avoid taking our salvation for granted?

11. How does it give you courage to know that Jesus has abolished death and provided life and immortality to those who trust Him?

Leader: When we recall that God graciously initiated our salvation, provided for our redemption through Christ, and set us free from sin and death, we should be inspired to boldly proclaim the truth of the gospel regardless of any opposition we encounter. The God whose power saved Paul and Timothy also provided the strength they needed to be loyal to Him. When we as believers remember the greatness of God and His salvation, we too will be strengthened to remain loyal to Christ.

> HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 2 TIMOTHY 1:11-14.

12. Why would Paul's situation be considered a cause for shame to him and the church?

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Leader: In a shame culture, bringing problems on one's family was to bring shame to the family. In that culture, it would have been easy to see Paul's conflict with the government and imprisonment as a reason for shame to the church, but Paul explained why it was not.

13. Why might a Christian who faces hardships on account of the gospel be tempted to feel ashamed?

14. How did the reason for Paul's suffering help explain the confidence he enjoyed despite his suffering?

15. What can we do to hold on to the pattern of sound teaching today? How do we know if the teaching we hear is sound or flawed?

Leader: Timothy hardly needed reminding that Paul had suffered. Timothy had witnessed Paul's mistreatment, and at that moment, Paul was expecting a death sentence from Rome. But Paul was honored rather than ashamed at his sufferings for Christ. Why? Because he knew the One for whose sake he suffered. In verse 14, Paul told Timothy to guard what had been entrusted to him—the "sound teaching" (v. 13) of the gospel message. Yet Paul assured Timothy that he was not on his own in this responsibility. He would guard the truth with the help of the Holy Spirit "who lives in us."

DOING LIFE TOGETHER

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

16. How can you be an example to family and friends of what it means to be unashamed of Christ and the gospel?

17. In what ways can you support those in your church or others in difficult places who are willingly, unashamedly, and confidently standing for Christ and the gospel?

PRAYER

Conclude your group meeting in prayer. Ask the Lord to increase our faith and to help us

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stand firm in loyal service for the gospel. Ask Him to lead us to faithful servants who are in need of fellowship and encouragement in Him.

MEMORIZE

¹⁴ Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. - 2 Timothy 1:14

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PASSAGE

2 TIMOTHY 1:3-14

1:3-5. Paul and Timothy both had a heritage of faith. When Paul said he prayed for Timothy continually night and day, he used a common expression for continual prayer. Timothy was on his mind and in his prayers throughout each day.

1:6. The phrase keep ablaze the gift of God did not mean that Timothy had "let the fire go out." It was a call to action lest sluggishness set in. On "gift of God," see note at 1Tim 4:14. The laying on of... hands probably refers to Timothy's ordination (1Tim 4:14). This passage focuses on Paul's part in the event while 1Tim 4:14 focuses on the involvement of the full group of elders.

1:7. Spirit here probably refers to the Holy Spirit. The Greek word translated fearfulness is used in extra biblical literature to refer to a person who fled from battle. It is a strong term for cowardice. Boldness, not cowardice, is a mark of the Holy Spirit (Pr 28:1; Ac 4:31).

1:9-10. These verses summarize the gospel for which believers suffer. They serve as a reminder of the power of God on whom we rely. The use of exalted language suggests that Paul was also arguing that so glorious a message was worth suffering for.

1:12. The phrase these things refers to Paul's imprisonment and impending death. He was confident that God would protect either the gospel (what has been entrusted to me) or his own soul ("what I have entrusted to Him"; lit "my entrustment"). Either way, it was this confidence in God that prevented Paul from being ashamed. His boldness came not from self-confidence but from God-confidence.

1:14. That good thing entrusted to you was the gospel.