

## Equipped to be Fearless for the Gospel

### “Guard the Gospel”

2 Timothy 1:1-14 (August 27, 2023)

**I. Encouraged by Faithfulness (2 Timothy 1:1-6)** Paul is encouraged by Timothy and longs to continue encouraging him in the faith. Paul has a genuine love and concern for his spiritual child and looks forward to seeing him as a father looks forward to seeing his children. Paul mentions others who have encouraged his faith, his mother and grandmother, are two that come to mind. In this encourage Paul instructs Timothy to keep going in faithfulness as stated in verse 6 “...fan into flame the gift of God...” Paul tells the Thessalonians to: **“therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”** (1 Thess. 5:11). We can go further and faster with a coach! If you are a believer, you are to encourage someone else’s growth in Christ! Are you genuinely concerned about others? Are you concerned enough to encourage them instead of belittling or berating them. May we encourage and be encouraged by other’s faith in Christ. May we all have cheerleaders who cheer us to the finish line and may we be cheerleaders who do the same. Encouraged by faithfulness for the gospel!

**II. Equipped to be Fearless (2 Timothy 1:7-12)** Being fearless for Christ means we are confident in Christ in every way! When we fear, we are telling the world that God is not big enough to protect and provide. We’re telling the world that God is not God. We must boast in God’s supreme sovereignty! We must boast in salvation from Christ alone! We must boast in God and serve Him! **When we fear we must pray!** Philippians 4:6-7 states: **“do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”** Acts 4:31 states: **“And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”** Let God be God and let’s be confident in that!

a. Confident to suffer (7-8) Jesus is worth our suffering or even death for the gospel.

b. Confident in salvation (9-10) Jesus is worthy of all honor and worship because He alone brings us salvation. Only His power can save. (Romans 1:16) **“I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power unto salvation which anyone can be saved...”**

c. Confident to serve (11-12) Jesus is worthy of serving with everything within me! The Holy Spirit equips us to be confident in Christ! We must be confident enough to suffer for the gospel, to be confident in salvation from Jesus Christ alone for the gospel, and to be confident in Jesus Christ to serve Him!

**III. Excited to Follow Christ (2 Timothy 1:13-14)** Being excited to follow Christ means to:

a. Follow the Christ-like example of those mentioned in God’s Word. (v.13)

b. Follow the Christ given endurance to guard the gospel. (v.14)

Equipped leaders follow Christ! Encouraged by faithfulness, equipped to be fearless, excited to follow Christ! Every time the Word of God is preached it requires a response.