

- b) God creates, renews, orders, or recreates through His words (Genesis 1).
- c) Recreating Jerusalem (Nehemiah 8:1-8).
- d) Throughout Acts, it is the Word of God that conquers the nations (e.g. Acts 6:7)

*The power for transformation is resident in God's proclaimed Word acted upon by the Spirit when we cling to it.*

iv. Deuteronomy 6:4-5

### LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Why is it important to remember that the Bible was written *for* us, but not *to* us? Why is this significant in our reading of 2 Timothy?
- How might the analogy of an armored vehicle help us understand two vital responsibilities pastors have regarding the gospel?
- Why will it always be necessary for pastors to persist in proclaiming the message? What temptations might there be to tire of guarding the message?
- What temptations might face congregations leading them to resist the Word proclaimed? What temptations have you faced in this regard?
- Why is expository preaching/teaching helpful toward the goal of guarding and delivering the gospel?
- How does our Sunday morning worship service contribute to the development of future leaders?
- How does the history of God's work of creation, renewal, and recreation inform our understanding of God's purpose in preaching?

## ***Building a Faithful Gospel Witness***

Jerry Cisar — January 13, 2019

**Text: 2 Timothy 1:6-18; 2:1-2**

### **Introduction**

#### **I. Guard the Message (1:11-14)**

- A. Paul was a herald, a special emissary, and a teacher of a *message*.
  - i. The proclamation that God is restoring His just, peaceful kingdom on earth as it is in heaven and is doing so through a King who was crucified by Rome.
  - ii. Paul is calling Timothy not to be ashamed, but to join Him in suffering for the gospel (8).
  - iii. God entrusted something to Paul, and now Paul explains that this deposit is now entrusted to Timothy.
    - Timothy was qualified (Phil. 2:20).
    - Timothy has proven himself faithful in life and doctrine.
- B. Timothy has been given a deposit.
  - i. The Bible was written *for* you but it was not written *to* you.
  - ii. Timothy pictures for us a pastor's responsibility.
    - a) Hold onto this deposit and live it too with faithfulness and love in Christ.
    - b) *Guard It!* (14)

- iii. What is this deposit? The gospel? Yes, but ...
  - a) By gospel I do not mean strictly the doctrine of justification...

The gospel is the proclamation of God's reign here and now. We could say: God's future reign present today in Jesus Christ (who is present today in His church)! That reign is one of justice, peace, love, faithfulness—of humanity flourishing in the image of God.

- b) By gospel I do not mean strictly a body of teaching, but also a way of life.

*Guarding the gospel requires a life being transformed by its content.*

*A gospel which doesn't transform the carrier is not understood by the carrier and therefore cannot arrive safely at the destination.*

## II. Deliver the Message (2:1-2)

- A. After guarding the message, Timothy has to focus on delivering the message, depositing with others.
  - i. Timothy heard the message in the presence of many who could observe both what he heard and that he incorporated it into his life (1:11-14).
  - ii. Timothy must make a deposit into the lives of faithful ones who *will be* qualified to teach others (2:1-2).

- B. How is Timothy to make this deposit into these faithful ones?

- C. Job description: Preaching and raising up future leaders.

- i. Raising up leaders must focus on the content of the message and incorporating it into life (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- ii. Then it involves recognizing those who are faithful and who love the message, whose lives are bent on delivering and living the message at all costs.

- iii. The Pastor's Task (2 Tim. 2:15 CSB)

## III. Persist in Proclaiming the Message (4:1-4 CSB)

- A. Resistance to the message.
- B. Proclaim the message.
  - i. Timothy must proclaim the message with great patience and teaching.
  - ii. Proclamation is not complete until transformation is occurring in our lives.
    - Philippians 4:9
  - iii. This instruction to proclaim the message has a long history among the people of God.
    - a) Moses (Deuteronomy 1:1)