

SERMON TITLE: **Guard The Good Deposit**

TEXT: **2 Timothy 1:3-14**

### **INTRODUCTION.**

In this sermon, we will be reminded of the value of the gospel that lives in us and heritage of faithfulness to that gospel that has been passed down to us. In this reminder we will be challenged and encouraged to guard that “great deposit” by fanning into flame the gifts God has given us.

### **DISCUSSION.**

Compare your life today with how you were 5 or 10 years ago. In what ways has your life of faithful witness of and service to God being “fanned into flame”?

### **EXAMINATION.**

2 Timothy 1:3-14

What kind of spiritual heritage did Timothy receive from his family (v. 5; also Acts 16:1-3)? How does that compare with your spiritual heritage? What were the key factors and events in your life that led to what Paul calls a “sincere faith”? Did you have a spiritual mentor like Paul? Have you ever had (or have now) a spiritual mentee like Timothy? When you first decided to follow Jesus, did you assume it would be a bed of roses, or a bed of nails? What have you learned about the cost of following Jesus since first beginning to? What role have suffering and endurance played in your life of faithfulness to and witness for Jesus?

Along with being reminded of Timothy’s sincere faith, what does Paul remind Timothy to do? What is one of Timothy’s weaknesses that Paul is reminding him of (v. 7)? How does Paul encourage him to regard it?

What do you think were the pressures pulling at Timothy to be ashamed of the Gospel or of Paul? Have you experienced similar pressures to be ashamed of Jesus and the gospel? What kept Paul from being ashamed of the Gospel (vv. 8-12)? How is Timothy to ensure that the message of Jesus will live on (vv. 1:6, 14; also 2:1-2)? Given Paul’s status at this time, that his days are numbered, why was this point particularly crucial to him?

In vv. 2:3-7 Paul gives Timothy concrete examples of the type of life that “guards the good deposit” and “fans into flame” God’s gifts. These were undoubtedly an encouragement to Timothy. In what ways are they an encouragement to you as well?

### **APPLICATION.**

- What one thing will you do this week to “fan into flame” the gifts God has given you? What specific steps will you now take to more vigilantly “guard the good deposit” of the gospel?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?