

## II Timothy, Sermon #4

II Timothy

Next Sunday – Father’s Day message

The Book of II Timothy is a very personal letter from a spiritual father (Paul) to a spiritual son (Timothy)

Timothy was sent by Paul to pastor in Ephesus – a city that Paul had previously preached in on his missionary journeys

Paul spent well over three years in this city that worshipped Diana – Artemas.

Of course, God’s preaching was contrary to these false worshippers and false lifestyles, so you could imagine the difficulty that young Timothy faced in a city enthralled and permeated by the worship of a false god.

Timothy was told to stir up his spiritual gift—literally, to be fired up, if you will, and then Paul told him to be courageous—to have not the spirit of fear because it is not of God.

Timothy was then told several things to do in order to be courageous.

I have entitled today’s message “**Where Courage Comes From**”

II Timothy 1:13

Let us stand for the reading of God’s Holy Word

II Timothy 1:13-18

Let us pray

You may be seated

## Where Courage Comes From

Courage for the Christian comes from the Bible, vs. 13a.

Notice what Timothy was to do with the Word

His first responsibility was to “hold fast”

Hold to it

The word *form* (v. 13) means a pattern.

Form was used of a writer’s outline or an artist’s rough sketch, which set the guidelines and standards for the finished work.

There was a definite outline of doctrine in the early church, a standard by which teaching and preaching were tested.

We still have that pattern/outline today. It is called the Bible.

The Christian’s **standard** is God’s Word—Paul said, I preached it to you. You heard it from me, vs. 13b – the same thing

Listen, anywhere we go in this world, if the church is Biblical, we should be hearing the same preaching because we should be using the same standard.

In this Bible, we have God’s truth and standards. It is all we need.

It is the only divinely inspired, divinely revealed, absolute, unique, and perfect Book.

It is total Truth. In it is found everything necessary for salvation and for living out the saved life.

Courage in Christian life ministry is not possible apart from strong Biblical convictions.

Call to courage – not to be ashamed – not to back away

Be loyal to God’s Word—hold fast!

Now, people say this is an old Book—yes, it is—it is also a living Book, an eternal Book—the only one.

When people decry our church's stance on such things as pastors being male – we stand on the Book!

The Bible teaches male leadership

The Bible teaches in the home that the man is the head of the house

But, Preacher, we live in a certain culture. Culture is irrelevant!

Our standards are not dictated by our culture

Culture changes – God and His Word are immutable.

Instead of being courageous, people have discarded—tried to disregard in hosts of ways what the Bible says.

One way they do this is to take the Bible out of context—taking the Bible at face value.

Affirming and holding onto right doctrine.

Many believers do not have the courage of their convictions simply because they have no clear convictions.

If a person doesn't have any convictions, he will not have anything to be courageous about

Many church-going folks simply don't know their Bible—they don't read it, they don't study it.

So when people say things, they cannot discern whether it's in the Bible or not.

Before we put ourselves on the line for what we believe, we must know what we believe.

Far too many believers have no concern for Biblical truth and Biblical standards of living; it bothers their conscience and lifestyle.

In the Bible Belt we live in – we have many who know Biblical truth, but do not hold onto it practically – hypocrisy – to know what is right and not to do it is sin.

In the name of love and tolerance within the church and within society, almost anything is accepted, or at least not challenged, no matter how much it may contradict Scripture.

Sunday School classes (open discussions) the Bible is the last thing opened or even brought to bear on the topic.

Like the world, many people who go by the name of Christ believe that to hold and teach absolute doctrines is to be unloving, antagonistic, and even “unchristian.” Yet that was exactly what Timothy was charged to do – II Timothy 4:2.

II Timothy 4:3-4

Much of the modern church is without any significant Biblical convictions, parameters, or standards

There are no lines/fences and the church is confused. There is no pattern.

Now, with our convictions, standards, we are not to take this Bible and beat people over the heads with it or jam it down their throats, vs. 13.

Strong convictions are to be held and taught in **faith and love**.

So, Timothy’s preaching and teaching was to be tempered with “faith and love.” The Bible puts it this way: “speaking the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15).

How many of us have spoken the truth with harshness, with an angry tone?

Oftentimes, we need to give a firm and strong message, but it needs to be delivered and packaged in faith and love.

When we deliver God’s Word in a self-righteous, unloving spirit, the resulting controversy and opposition are not caused wholly by the message of truth itself but by the unspiritual way in which we gave it.

We are to deliver and defend God's Word **in faith**, that is, with the right attitude of confidence toward God; and we are to deliver and defend it in love, with the right attitude of kindness and compassion toward people.

Courage comes from standing on the Word of God. When we know we are right Biblically, it gives us confidence and courage.

### **Vs. 14 – keep**

Timothy had been given a trust, a treasure. Timothy was to guard it.

The question is, How secure is His deposit of truth with us?

The most solemn responsibility that any believer has, especially those the Lord has called to be preachers and teachers, is to uphold and defend the integrity of His Word – not only by voice, but also by practice

From the beginning of human history, Satan has opposed God's Word.

“Yea, hath God said?” was Satan's first word to mankind (Gen. 3:1)

He has been sowing seeds of doubt and undermining the truth of God ever since.

Throughout the history of the church, the Word of God has been attacked, yet it still stands today and will be still standing tomorrow.

We need dedicated men and women guarding the deposit and faithfully handing it to a new generation of believers.

What a responsibility! What a tragedy that the Bible has not been guarded by churches, denominations, and schools so that “Ichabod” (the glory of God has departed) has been written over them.

Paul did what he exhorted Timothy to do—guard and pass this on to faithful men, 2:2.

Timothy is able to accomplish this because of the Holy Spirit – verse 14

The Holy Spirit who lives in us will help us.

The Holy Spirit of God will help us be courageous! He will give us the words to speak, power to stand.

When a person or a church goes liberal, it usually starts with a releasing of truth or a weakening of their convictions about the Word of God.

Then Paul gives us examples—both positive and negative—of cowards and of courage.

In the next four verses, Paul contrasts fellow workers who were ashamed of the Gospel with those who were not.

Where does courage come from? From the Bible and from the Holy Spirit. It comes from other courageous people.

See, if we associate with spiritually courageous Christians, our own courage will be strengthened.

On the other hand, if we associate with those who are ashamed of Christ and His Word, we will soon be tainted by that shame.

### **Vs. 15-16**

The first group Paul mentions included **all who were from Asia in Rome turned away**, turned their backs on Paul.

They were ashamed and fearful when Paul was thrown into jail for his faith.

Many of the men who had been with him were afraid of being found guilty by association.

We saw this when Jesus Christ was arrested and the disciples scattered.

A person's natural response is self-preservation; they had nothing more to do with the Apostle.

To be rejected by the world is not pleasant, but to be deserted by fellow workers in the service of Christ is particularly painful.

To have those you have spent your life spiritually nurturing turn away from you and sometimes even against you, is heartbreaking in the extreme.

And Paul lists a couple of men.

**Among** the deserters were **Phygelus** [fi-gee-lus] and **Hermogenes** (vs. 15) about whom we know very little except that they were cowards.

And because he names them specifically, it seems likely that they were known in Asia. Although God loved these men who abandoned the Apostle Paul, God names them, he calls them out – he did not hide their defection.

God will call us out – sometimes on earth – but for sure on Judgment Day!

People don't like to be called out – publicly chastised.

On the other hand, **Onesiphorus** [oh-knee-sif-or-us] had gone to Paul while he was in prison – vs. 16

**He was not afraid of his chains**, that is, Paul being a prisoner.

He regularly visited the aging apostle and refreshed him, relieved him, ministered to his needs, without fear and without shame.

He came to Paul time and time again.

Onesiphorus traveled from Ephesus to Rome and diligently looked for Paul.

He went the extra mile to help; he went out of his way.

When this friend first came to **Rome**, **he eagerly searched for** Paul – vs. 17

This suggests that the search involved considerable time, effort, and possible danger.

Onesiphorus persisted!

We thank God for Christians who are “a breath of fresh air” in our hours of trial!  
Those who send cards, food, finances—those who labor and work to help out

Were it not for Paul’s letter, we would never know of this man who had served Paul  
and the church.

But the Lord knew, and the Lord will reward him “on that day.”

**Vs. 18a**

**Vs. 12e** – This is the day of judgment for believers, the Bema Seat, for how we have  
run the race as a believer, how we have lived our life for God, (II Tim. 4:8).

Romans 14:10, tells us Christians, for we will all stand before the Judgment Seat of  
Christ

I Cor. 3:13, Christ will test our works

Believers who minister behind the scenes, **listen**, the Lord will reward you openly “in  
that day”

**Vs. 18 b-e**, this man had a pattern of meeting needs and being a blessing to others.

The essentials for a successful ministry have not changed:

Use our gifts, fan the flame, have courage, don’t be afraid, and be loyal to the  
Word. Hold fast to it and keep it.

You know where courage comes from?

It comes from the Bible

It comes from the Holy Spirit who indwells us

It comes from courageous people

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Every eye closed

People, are we holding fast?

Are we guarding and keeping the Word or are we excusing sin?

Are we justifying ourselves, are we compromising, letting things go in our home?

We need to tighten our grip. The church helps us to do that. Believers help us, the Holy Spirit helps us.

Are we passing this truth on to others, our children and grandchildren, our friends and co-workers?

Believers, are we courageous in defending, are we loving and kind when we deliver the tough message of God's Word?

One of the most precious deposits of truth is the Gospel itself. That Christ died for our sins. He was buried and He arose the third day according to the Scriptures.

The Bible says that this Gospel saves people. It delivers them from sin.

Have you been saved and delivered from your sins?

The Bible says there are none righteous but Jesus is the Savior and if you will confess that you are a sinner in need of a Savior and if you will call on Him – *O God, save me from my sins. I understand that Jesus died for my sins and I believe that He was buried and rose again. Come into my life.*

Will you believe upon Jesus Christ and be saved today?