

Entrusted For Such A Time As This | April 21, 2024

Church-Wide Prayer:

Corporate Prayer #5 – Heart of Prayer (Psalm 27:4): Every generation to find Jesus & grow in bringing their needs to him in prayer.

- **Pray that each believer at Southland would continue to grow in their prayer life!**
- **Pray for each Ministry area at Southland to be grounded in and committed to prayer.**
May we pray much, being able to confidently say that everything we do comes from prayer!
- **Pray for our Prayer Ministry and Corporate Prayer Gathering to flourish!** (After Service Prayer, Noon-Hour Prayer, Live Morning Devotions in Prayer Room on Thursday's, Prayer Summits, and Church-Wide Prayer in Services!)
- **Pray for the Worship Night this coming TUESDAY!** Pray that God would be pleased as we sing our prayers to him and declare His praises! Pray our church would be strengthened.
- **PRAY FOR ISRAEL!** Pray always for peace in Israel and surrounding countries. That Jesus would draw many to himself in the midst of much hardship.

NOTE: All Scripture references are taken from the NIV translation unless otherwise stated.

Intro: Good Morning Church!

- **If you have your Bibles with you this morning, open them to 2 Timothy Chapter 1.**
- Here is a thought that encouraged me this week. **The Word WANTS TO BE PREACHED!**
 - Proverbs says that Wisdom cries aloud in the streets! And the Word of God is WISDOM, and it wants to be preached! More than that, it wants to be obeyed. Embodied!
 - It's not a dusty list of do's and don'ts (although it does contain simple instructions and commands to be obeyed). It is an accurate account of reality. The Word is truth!
 - I can't wait to read you a passage from 2 Timothy! But first...

Best Man Story | Holding rings as best man in a wedding... what an honor + also nerve-racking responsibility!

BIG QUESTION: What has God entrusted to you right now?

- *"What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us."* 2 Timothy 1:13-14

This isn't just a word for Timothy. All of us have been entrusted with something(s).

Read 2 Timothy 1-2:10

Context For 2 Timothy

- **Who wrote this letter?** The Apostle Paul wrote this letter!
 - *2 Tim.1:1, "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God..."*
- **To whom did Paul write this letter?** Timothy, whom he addresses as 'dear son'. Timothy was a young Pastor stationed in Ephesus whom Paul had discipled/trained up.
 - *2 Tim. 1:2, "To Timothy, my dear son..."*

- **1 Tim. 1:2, “To Timothy my true son in the faith...”**
- **When and where was this letter written?** This letter was written in approximately 67 A.D. shortly before Paul was put to death (ref. www.gotquestions.com). 2 Timothy was likely the last letter that Paul wrote, which he wrote from prison (or captivity of some kind). I envision Paul as a weather saint by this point, bearing the marks of Christ on his body and ready to depart and be with Jesus, but using all the time and remaining strength he has left to pass on the mission to Timothy.
 - **2 Timothy 1:8, “So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.”**
 - **v2:9, “I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God’s word is not chained.”**
 - **v4:6-7, “For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”**

Think of this letter as the parting words of a Spiritual Father (mentor), written to His dear son in the faith. These words are personal, and powerful! These words would have carried weight with them because of the relationship Paul had with Timothy, and from the example he had set in his suffering!

Let's begin to unpack this passage together. The first thing I want to focus our attention on is a word Paul uses a few times throughout the passage (he also bookends 1 Tim with it). **ENTRUSTED** – with what?

A | Entrusted... with what?

- **“What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.” 2 Timothy 1:13-14**
- **Verse from a birds eye view: “FROM ME... ENTRUSTED TO YOU.” This is transmission!**

Definition of Entrusted: **1)** a deposit, a trust or thing consigned to one's faithful keeping... **2)** used of the correct knowledge and pure doctrine of the gospel, to be held firmly and faithfully, and to be **conscientiously delivered** unto others... (ref. Blue Letter Bible)

- **Recall the story of me as a best man... I was entrusted with the rings!** They were a deposit put in my care for faithful keeping. It was my responsibility to keep them safe and deliver them the right time.
 - **Paul is saying to Timothy, “I have put something in your care which I also received; it requires faithful keeping. You have been entrusted with it and you must guard it + share it.”**
- **What was Timothy entrusted with?** I'd like to suggest that there are a few layers to this. **The most obvious answer is... Timothy has been entrusted with the Gospel!** (and so have we!)

Layer #1: Entrusted With Sound Teaching (Doctrine)

- **“What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.” 2 Timothy 1:13-14** (Thing about patterns is... they are **repetitious**)
- **“Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.” 1 Corinthians 15:1-5** (calling for **all** believers, not just pastors)

- “So I will always **remind you** of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to **refresh your memory** as long as I live in the tent of this body, because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And **I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.**” **2 Peter 1:12-15** (Peter + Paul saying same thing with their ‘last words’)
- “Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have **written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking.**” **2 Peter 3:1** (our minds are prone to wander.. need reminders)

Layer #2: Entrusted With The Testimony of Jesus (Calling)

- “...do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me as **his prisoner ... join with me in suffering for the gospel,** by the power of God. He saved us and called us to a holy life...” **2 Tim 1:8-9**
 - **Notice it's not Paul's calling.** Its Jesus' calling to Paul and Timothy... to follow him in suffering. What is the testimony of Jesus? Is it not his way of life, his teaching and miracles, but also his death and resurrection? His endurance in suffering for the sake of others?
 - “**To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.**” **1 Peter 2:21**
 - “**Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”** **Matthew 16:24**

Layer #3: Entrusted With Sincere Faith (Character)

- “**I am reminded of your sincere faith...**” **2 Timothy 1:5** (**it's a pure, honest, authentic faith**)
- “**Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity... Watch your life and doctrine closely...**” **1 Timothy 4:12 + 16** (We often get caught thinking one-dimensionally about our faith. Watch your DOCTRINE!? Watch you CHARACTER!? It's actually BOTH/AND!)

B | Entrusted... for what?

Now that we have answered what we have been entrusted **WITH** (stewards of Sound Teaching, recipients of a **Calling** + carriers of **Sincere Faith**) ... The question remains – **FOR WHAT PURPOSE** have these things been entrusted to us?

- **Simply put, we have been entrusted with the Gospel for the sake of THE MISSION!** What mission? **Great Commission** – “**Go, and make disciples of all nations!**” **Matthew 28:19.**
- I'd like to show you this plainly in the text. This insight was immensely practical and helpful for me. **Look again at verse 3-5.**
- “**I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.**” **2 Timothy 1:3-5**
- **Question:** is Paul presenting himself and Timothy as isolated individuals, or as participants within a larger story? **ANSWER: THEY ARE PART OF A LARGER STORY!**
 - **Whats my point?** First to give us **perspective**. Second, to show how **practical** this all is!!
 - **1)** We've been in a series called God's Grand Story, where Pastor Stefan has been skillfully helping us see the Bible as a Grand Narrative, not a sequence of isolated stories!

- Paul is including himself in a long line of people who have all been entrusted with something. His ancestors! He's a part of a Grand Story; each character is working towards the same final goal. A Story of creation, fall, redemption and restoration!
- **2) Paul then shifts the focus from his part in the Grand Story (zoomed out) to Timothy's story... his family story!** Like Paul, Timothy isn't an isolated individual. Sincere faith runs in his family! **It was entrusted, stewarded, and handed down from one generation to another!**
 - Entrusted... for what? We've been entrusted FOR THEM! (i.e. next generation)
 - **Susanna Wesley Story** | mother of 19 children (including John Wesley), responsible for managing the house, caring for the children (including educating them) and working on top of that to provide food. Yet she dedicated time every day to prayer and devotion to God. She used a strange (yet beautiful) technique to help her spend time with Jesus. The kids knew that when Mom had her apron over her head, she was with the Lord... and not to be disrupted! She was praying!
- This is gospel **transmission**. **I do, we do, you do. Be Discipled, Make Disciples.**
 - **Church, ALL of us have been entrusted with the gospel for the sake of the mission – to reach others!** To pass on. To build up. To preserve and protect. To live out our faith in the public sphere, as well as in private. **We are not Spiritual dead seas... only having water flow to us. It's meant to flow through us and from us. We need to pass on the faith!**
- **It's worth mentioning...** Paul gives examples both ways. For good AND bad. Look at verse **1v15** – **"You know that everyone in the province of Asia deserted me..."** (reference 1 Tim 4:1 also)
 - I don't know about you... but I don't want that to be my legacy.
 - **We've been entrusted for the sake of others!** By God's grace, may that call not be deserted or abandoned!
 - **Here is the calling!**
 - **"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."** 2 Timothy 2:2

Feeling the weight??

- I'm not sure about you... but that feels weighty. Carrying around wedding rings for an afternoon is starting to not feel like such a big deal compared to this.
- Maybe you are feeling unprepared... or unworthy? Perhaps you feel underqualified or even unwilling to participate in such a task as carrying the gospel?
 - Maybe you feel nervous that you will mess it up... or shame if perhaps you already have?
- **As mentioned, this call is not only true for Timothy... all of us have been entrusted with something(s).**
 - **Question:** How is that load feeling on your back?
 - Well, I've got good news for you!

C | Entrusted... TO HIM!

"Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God... I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day." 2 Timothy 1:8 + 12

- Don't you see the beauty of what Paul is saying? Church, what is the Gospel about? Our works? Our strength? Our heroism? Our courage? Our ability to achieve good results by our own effort?

- Or is it not rather about HIS FINISHED WORK? Isn't the Gospel (indeed the whole GRAND STORY) about one hero... His name is Jesus. God Incarnate. Yahweh in flesh. The author and perfector of faith. It's about HIS strength! His heroism! His courage! His faithfulness!
- **Yes, we have a part to play, but Lord help us if we ever think we could do it on our strength!**
- What was Paul's secret?? How'd he finish well? Hmm? Paul's secret was... THE SAME THING HE PROCLAIMED EVERYWHERE... THE GOSPEL! His strength (Jesus) working powerfully within him!
 - **What God entrusted to Paul, Paul entrusted right back to Him! That's the secret.**
 - ***...by the POWER of God.* 2 Timothy 1:8**

BIG QUESTION: What has God entrusted to you right now? What things might you be overlooking?

Three Closing Truths: *Entrusted For Such a Time as This!*

1 | Those in Christ are equipped... *"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."* 2 Timothy 1:6-7

2 | Those in Christ are guarded... *"What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us."* 2 Timothy 1:13-14

3 | Those in Christ are loved... *"To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."* 2 Timothy 1:2

Church, we have been entrusted FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS! Maranatha!