

Series: The Essential Church; Sermon: Stay on Message;
Delivered on June 16, 2019, by Zach Fallon, high school pastor

Bible text explored: 2 Timothy 1:13–18

¹³Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

¹⁵You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. ¹⁶May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, ¹⁷but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me— ¹⁸may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. What symbolically occurs at the Changing of the Guard Ceremony at London’s Buckingham Palace?
How does this letter from the veteran Paul to his young successor carry a similar significance?
2. From whom (v. 13) had Timothy received the sound words he was to guard, and what made them authoritative?
What was the pattern that made this information “sound” . . .
. . . for building people up in the faith?
. . . for protecting against the corrupting influence of false teachers?
How far back does the attempt to corrupt God’s revelation go?
(See *Genesis 3:1-2*.)
What is the temptation to soften the message to make it more palatable?
Is your ability to distinguish between a worldly lie and God’s truth growing?
3. But this is not an either/or choice. What attitude should shape the way we protect the content of this message?
Paul repeats his reference (v. 14) to the gospel as a precious treasure being entrusted to the care of those who follow him. (See also 1Tim. 6:20-21.)
4. How is this like being tasked to adequately manage a significant fund or to provide care for a child?
What is the source of our strength to handle this?
(Pastor Zach quoted from the hymn, *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*:
“I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.”)
What did Jesus promise that the Holy Spirit would do?
(See *John 14:16-17; 16:8*.)
5. Why (v. 15) might Phygelus and Hermogenes have turned away from Paul and the gospel?
What would they have feared and what did they actually give up?
6. Whose family (vv. 16-18) was the breath-of-fresh-air exception to this turning away?
How did Onesiphorus show he wasn’t embarrassed by Paul and the gospel?
What is at stake in this kind of perseverance?