

2 Timothy 1:8-14 (ESV) *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, which is why I suffer as I do.*

But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.

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

I. Paul: A Review Before Romans

A. 5 C's of the Apostle Paul

1. **The conversion of Paul** demonstrates that God's transforming grace in salvation is a work God pursues independent of a man's attitude or actions toward God.
2. **The confession of Paul** illustrates that genuine conversion at the hands of God in response to the gospel of Christ through the power of the Spirit results in a changed life, a new moral, ethical, spiritual, intellectual, and practical focus on living the holy life of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. **The commitment of Paul**
 - a. reveals that there is an ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer that progresses to engage every aspect of the believers heart, mind, soul, and strength until self is fully surrendered and we live as those who utterly and totally belong to Christ from the inside out.
 - b. We discover that through the work of the Holy Spirit the implications of the cross eventually color the entire character of the true believer redeemed by grace and filled with the Holy Spirit.
4. **The context of Paul**
 - a. Cornerstone Context
 - (1) Steve Cable, Santisuk English School, Bangkok, Thailand
 - (2) Fountain of Christ School, Fontaine, Haiti
 - b. We are reminded that Paul's life context, the context in which he lived out faith in Christ and love for God was mission, the proclamation of God's good news to those who had not yet heard.
 - (1) Paul was a missionary practitioner.

- (2) Romans, at one very personal, important letter, is a missionary support letter
 - (a) Paul longs to spread the gospel of God in Spain
 - (b) Paul desires the necessary spiritual, financial, and logistical support from the Roman Christians
 - i) He introduces himself
 - ii) Outlines the gospel
 - iii) Justifies the application of the gospel to unreached people
 - iv) Calls the Romans to align themselves personally, ethically, theologically, and spiritually with the gospel
 - v) Then he invites them to put all that into practice helping him reach Spain.
- c. Paul heard the call of God in the word of God and followed the Son of God in the Spirit of God to proclaim the gospel of God to the “not yet” people of God for the glory of God.
 - (1) Faith comes by hearing but who can hear unless someone is sent to speak?
 - (2) Romans makes the point, when you hear the gospel of God, believe, and when you believe, speak.

5. **The counsel of Paul**

- a. 2 Timothy is the last letter we have that Paul wrote
 - (1) He wrote it in prison expecting his imminent death
 - (2) He wrote to his beloved protégé, Timothy, whom he called his “son in the faith.”
 - (3) These are his last words, the instructions, admonitions, and encouragements of a godly, loving heart to his best friend, ally, and disciple.
- b. As we look at Paul’s final charge to Timothy, we want to see **Five Responses Christians Ought to Make to the Gift of God.**

II. The Counsel of Paul: Five Responses Christians Ought to Make to the Gift of God

- A. The Gift of God
 - 1. Timothy’s Gift
 - a. **2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV) for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.**
 - b. Paul reminds Timothy that God has given him a gift.
 - (1) God has bestowed upon Timothy spiritual benefit Timothy would not normally have were it not for the grace and working of God.
 - (2) In fact, in verse 6 Paul calls it the gift of God: ***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,***
 - c. The gift of God
 - (1) is not salvation because that comes through faith and is not

- the work of any man
 - (2) Is something else: a spirit not of fear but of power, love, and self-control.
 - d. The gift of God is the result of the Holy Spirit active and present in Timothy's life transforming his experience of grace and mercy and the presence of Christ.
 - 2. The promise of God to every Christian: The Indwelling Holy Spirit
 - a. **Ezekiel 36:26-27 (ESV)** ²⁶ *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.* ²⁷ *And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*
 - b. **John 14:15-17 (ESV)** ¹⁵ *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments.* ¹⁶ *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,* ¹⁷ *even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*

B. The Counsel of Paul: Five Responses Christians Ought to Make to the Gift of God

- 1. Show shameless sharing in suffering for the gospel
 - a. **2 Timothy 1:8 (ESV)** *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,*
 - b. Do not be ashamed . . . but share in suffering
 - (1) Cook County politics: hostility toward Christian convictions
 - (2) Temptation: silence and avoidance
 - c. We are not given a spirit of fear but of power!
 - (1) Christ did not flee from the cross in fear but endured the cross for God's glory and anticipated joy!
 - (2) **We ought not be ashamed to proclaim our confidence as Christians nor the gospel through which we came to faith in CHrist!**
- 2. Pursue powerful purpose
 - a. **2 Timothy 1:8-9 (ESV)** *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,*
 - b. God
 - (1) Saved us
 - (2) Called us
 - (3) Purposed us

- c. Was God wrong? Did God make a mistake?
 - d. Pursue God's purpose in the power of the Spirit
3. Celebrate our sufficient Savior
- a. **2 Timothy 1:9-10 (ESV) *who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,***
 - b. God's grace is eternal, powerful, successful, and undeniable
 - (1) While the majority of people will have little concern for the grace of God, there are in our contexts, for each of us and for all of us, those whom God is calling to faith in Christ, those who long for freedom from sin and guilt, those who are seeking light in the darkness of heart, mind, and soul.
 - (2) Celebrate Christ and you will be a light for those who seek God in the darkness
4. Fulfill faithful following
- a. **2 Timothy 1:13 (ESV) *Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.***
 - b. How to follow a pattern
 - (1) Read the pattern first and make sure you understand it before you start cutting
 - (2) Gather the necessary tools/materials - spiritual provisions
 - (a) Promises
 - (b) Power
 - (c) Prayer
 - (3) Develop supporting skills
 - (a) "Fan into flame"
 - (b) Bible study
 - (c) Writing, speaking, worship etc
 - (4) Stay within the lines
 - (a) (don't rewrite the boundaries to suit yourself!)
 - (b) Nephew's quilt: caddywampus!
 - c. Follow the pattern of sound words
5. Guarantee aggressive guarding
- a. Guard
 - (1) **2 Timothy 1:12 (ESV) *which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.***
 - (2) **2 Timothy 1:14 (ESV) *By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.***
 - b. How does Christ guard the gift with which He is entrusted?

- (1) Romans 8
- (2) **Romans 8:35-39 (ESV)** *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

c. **Let nothing separate your affections from Christ.**

- (1) You have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, and love, and self control.
- (2) You have been given the gift of God, a new heart and a new spirit within you, the Holy Spirit
- (3) **Guard the good deposit entrusted to you.**

III. Paul, Romans, and You

A. What you will see in Romans

1. The work of God in Christ, the gospel of God
2. The human condition of sin and guilt and the necessity of Christ our Savior
3. The implications of the people of God upon the world
4. The call to holiness, faithfulness, surrender, and grace

B. What you are already seeing in Paul

1. A new life, a new heart, a new purpose, a new power
2. **Hear the call of God and give yourself in faith to Christ.**