

Listen, watch, or read the sermon on the website if you missed it. Turn to the back for an outline of the sermon.

Ice Breaker: Can you name a time when you suffered for the sake of advancing the gospel?

1. Read 1 Timothy 6:17-20. Jeff illustrates that true life is not a prideful comfort and a trust in the uncertainty of riches for joy (1 Tim 6:17-20).

A. According to these verses, in what way may we combat reliance on earthly riches for our joy?

B. Paul tells Timothy to ‘guard the deposit entrusted to you.’ What is the deposit? In what ways can we guard it?

2. Read 2 Timothy 1:2-7. Paul calls Timothy a ‘beloved child,’ whose faith is recognizable and partially seen to be a product of his upbringing (Lois, Eunice) and mentoring (Paul). We are encouraged to rejoice in the fellowship of the Gospel.

A. With whom do you rejoice in the fellowship of the Gospel? With Family? With Friends? Would you be able to see your faith living in the lives of others?

B. Fear enters when a person focuses on their circumstances rather than their Savior, on their abilities rather than God’s attributes. What fears do you have regarding sharing and using your gifts for God?

3. Read 2 Timothy 1:8-2:2.

A. Paul talks of sharing in Christ’s sufferings and not being ashamed. In what ways have you suffered for the Gospel? Have you ever been ashamed of being a Christian?

B. Verses 1:15-2:2 talk of relationships lost and gained and the joy and pain that can be experienced interacting with and trusting in others. Have you ever suffered loss of a relationship due to the Gospel? Have you gained any?

4. Read 2 Timothy 2:3-10.

A. What do a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer have in common with each other? With you?

5. Reflection: Regarding this study, what do you see? What do you think? What do you feel? What will you do?

Sermon Idea: “True life is found not in the comfort of riches, but in the joy of suffering for the sake of advancing the gospel, empowered by God himself through communion with him by his indwelling Holy Spirit”

- I. Paul, speaking for Christ himself, by the very will of God, has a message for Timothy that accords with that which is truly life. (v1)
 - A. **True Life** is not a prideful comfort and a trust in the uncertainty of riches for joy (1 Tim 6:17-20).
 - B. But there is a promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus that accords with **suffering** and a trust in God, who richly provides everything we need for joy.
- II. Paul, as a loving father, encourages Timothy with reflection upon the blessing of his commissioning into gospel service. (vv2-7)
 - A. The blessing of holding onto the **same message** as those before us.
 - B. The blessing of the gift of **boldness** in carrying this message.
 - C. The blessing of the Holy Spirit to keep us from **cowardice** in carrying this message.
- III. Paul, as an authoritative Apostle and mentor, instructs Timothy in regard to the true nature of his commission. (vv8-Chp 2 v2)
 - A. That it consists of suffering together **with Christ** (vv8-14).
 - B. That it is enabled within him by **union** with Christ (vv8-14).
 - C. That it will necessarily impact his **relationships** (vv15-Chp 2 v2).
- IV. Paul, as a co-laborer in the gospel, coaches Timothy in how to embrace suffering (Chp 2 vv3-10)
 - A. Like a soldier who is **focused** on his mission, seeking to please his commander.
 - B. Like an athlete who disciplines himself to strive with careful **obedience** to the mission, seeking the prize of glory.
 - C. Like a farmer who labors diligently in the mission with a silent trust in God to **give growth**, seeking to reap an abundant crop.