

Discussion Questions & Quotes For March 3 thru 9, 2024

—“Guard the trust; You gotta guard the trust; Hold on to the faithful Word; Ah, this you must, You gotta guard the trust; You gotta guard the trust! Through the Spirit who dwells in you! Guard the trust!”

Listen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6HYFGNSMoc —**Steve Camp**

—**2 Timothy 1:14** “Guard, through the Holy Spirit Who dwells in us, the treasure (trust) which has been entrusted to you.”

—“Be not ashamed of your faith; remember it is the ancient gospel of martyrs, confessors, reformers and saints. Above all, it is the truth of God, against which the gates of hell cannot prevail.” —**Charles Spurgeon**

“I see a church that desperately needs to learn the lessons that the people of God have to relearn in each generation: We have to be a church that is, in some ways, repulsive to the world because of our authentic holiness and yet very attractive to the world because of our love & care. We need to be a courageous church at the time of weak knees and carnal living. In short, we have to live lives that are a credit to the gospel we preach and the Savior we worship.” —**Erwin W. Lutzer**

—**2 Timothy 1:12** “For this reason I also suffer (in prison & persecution), but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have trusted and am absolutely convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day (when He comes to take me to heaven).

—“As Christians we are tempted to make unnecessary concessions to those outside the Faith. We give in too much. Now, I don’t mean that we should run the risk of making a nuisance of ourselves by witnessing at improper times, but there comes a time when we must show that we disagree. We must show our Christian colours, if we are to remain true to Jesus Christ. We cannot remain silent or concede everything away. May we demonstrate Christian boldness wherever God has planted us.”

—**C. S. Lewis**

—**Romans 1:16–17** “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous man shall live by faith.”

—“We must trust God with what we can’t control.” —**David Jeremiah**

—“How big is your God? The size of your God determines the size of everything.” —**Howard G. Hendricks**

—Some Questions for Personal Reflection & Discussion—

—Please acquaint yourself with 2 Timothy 1–3 by reading it carefully, observing the details provided by what’s in the biblical text. Please pay close attention to how the idea of being ashamed is used in 1:8, 1:12, & 2:15.

—**1}** Please notice on the other side of this sheet: Romans 1:16–17. It’s helpful for us to understand that Paul was expressing a sense of proud confidence in the Gospel, but he said this by pointing out the opposite. He was not ashamed! What does it mean to be ashamed of the Gospel? Why should we be concerned about the possibility of being ashamed of this powerful message? For some people the Gospel is controversial. How have you encountered this and how do you respond when someone challenges the importance of the Gospel?

—**2}** Considering 2 Timothy 1:12–14, we see here that the Gospel is like a trust between God & sinners who have been saved by grace thru faith. Once we’re saved, we come to the realization that God is able to protect (guard) us from losing our salvation. How does this prepare us for times of doubt & discouragement? Why should we understand that salvation is not just a human decision, but requires the very power of God in imparting new life? What problems might occur if we forget this? What’s the difference between genuine saving faith & superficial, false faith (believing, but not trusting in Christ alone)?

—**3}** 2 Timothy 1:12–14 emphasizes the importance of “retaining a sound (biblical) standard for what we believe. 2 Timothy 2:15 teaches us to be diligent in our study of God’s Word. Diligence is “an enthusiastic or eager attitude that leads to action.” It involves being careful & consistent because of our reverence & respect for God’s Word. Do you believe that every Christian is required to be diligent to study God’s Word? Personal thoughts about this? What would be the impact or influence on the ministries of the Church if every follower of Christ would be seriously concerned about accurate Bible understanding?

—**4}** In 1&2 Timothy Paul gives 2 serious warnings about the false teaching & people falling away from the faith. (1 Timothy 4:1–10 & 2 Timothy 2:26–3:17) These types of warnings might seem to scare us, but from a positive perspective, they’re intended to prepare us. Based on what we’ve studied over the past 3 weeks, what are some steps we should take in order to be prepared for ministry opportunities?