

# **Let The Bible Speak Series**

**Ronny F.Wade, Speaker**

## **Guarding The Faith**

1 Timothy 6:20-21

The word “guard” means to preserve, “committed to thy trust” means a “possession entrusted.” Authorities point out that this is a banking term, i.e. a “bank deposit” that is to be kept secure. The idea is that the gospel, a deposit, was to be kept pure and free from any kind of corruption. Timothy was to be keep diligent and watchful guard over the faith that had been committed to his trust; to preserve it unaltered and uncorrupted, so as to hand it down to his successors exactly the same as he had received it. In Judges 2:6-10 we have the chilling reminder of what happens when “the faith” is not guarded against forgetfulness and alteration. Joshua and his generation died. The following generation “did not know the Lord or the work he had done for Israel.

It was a generation that:

- a. worshipped at the shrine of idolatry
- b. that had more in common with its enemies than it had in common with the Lord
- c. a generation that no longer could stand before its enemies
- d. a generation that did not appreciate the hardships, sacrifices, battles and reasons for loyalty that the other generation had experienced, in order to establish Israel as a great nation.
- e. a generation that had forgotten.

For these reasons it became much easier for them to make accommodations with the people around them and adopt their ways of worship.

That is the reason Timothy was commanded by Paul to “guard the faith.”

### **I. Guard The Faith By Knowing What It Is**

One cannot guard that which he does not know. Acts 18:25 “This man (Apollos) was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.” Mt.15:9 “In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments...” God’s people of old were destroyed for “a lack of knowledge.” Jno. 10:4-5 “And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him; for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him; for they know not the voice of strangers.” A failure to know what the bible teaches has led to a multitude of departures from the sacred word. Ideas and practices that are foreign to the teachings of the bible flourish when people do not know the truth.

### **II. Guard The Faith By Having A Desire To Be True To It**

Jude 1:3-4 "Beloved when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unaware, who were before of old ordained to his condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." Such desire to walk in the light, is born of honest conviction.

Acts 17:11 "And these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." We will avoid all departures from the faith once delivered.

We will not seek to stretch its limits or stray into forbidden or questionable territory.

### III. Guard The Faith By Not Being Ashamed Of It

Rom. 1:16 "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ..." Paul did not apologize, even if what he preached and practiced was unpopular. Psalms 40:9 "I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O Lord, thou knowest."

Mark 8:38 "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." Being ashamed of what is written, will lead to a neglect of what has been revealed, which in turn will lead to departures from the will of God. We cannot be ashamed of the forthright teaching of the bible on such things as: virgin birth, resurrection, miracles of our Lord, condemnation of sin and evil, murder (abortion), homosexual lifestyle,---even though many accept such today, we must continue to oppose all wrong.

### IV. Guard The Faith By Teaching All The Truth

Acts 20:27 "for I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."

To keep back part of the truth is deceptive and dangerous.

Example: a doctor who fails to tell a patient all they need to know about their condition.

Example: an individual who fails to give adequate and accurate information about the way to reach a certain destination. In both of these illustrations, the person involved is keeping back or distorting valuable information. Gal. 1:6-9 "I marvel that you are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel, which is not another..." Phil. 4:8 "Am I become your enemy because I tell you the truth?"

Why, in religion, is this the case? It is not so in finances, not in medicine, not in education, not in receiving directions. Why in religion?

We must guard Baptism and preach it. Because the faith reveals it. Mk. 16:16; Rom. 6:3-4; Acts 2:38; 1Pet. 3:21 etc.

We must guard the doctrine of one church. Mt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Eph. 4:4; 1Cor. 12:13 because the bible teaches it. If we fail to guard these bible doctrines, error will take over and people will be lost.

#### V. Guard The Faith By Making No Compromise

Gal.1:11-12 "But I certify you brethren that the gospel which was preached of me was not of man, neither received it of man, nor was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."

No compromise with Paul. Some say nothing that will offend anyone. Others "we don't want to run anybody off" "don't hurt people's feelings." Many have become so thin skinned that the least little statement of fact, turns them away. Peter said to Simon regarding his proposal to buy the "power of God in Acts 8:20 "thy money perish with thee because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money..." Acts 20:27 "For I shunned not to declare unto you all the council of God." Paul did not go "easy" with either Agrippa or Felix. Peter did not compromise his message to those on Pentecost Acts 8:37. Compromising the truth or a firm stand for what is right, is but to lose our grip on the truth, and leave ourselves open to major departures from it.

#### VI. Guard The Faith By Following The Apostle's Example

Acts 20:20-21 "And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 10:33 (Cornelius said to Peter who had sent for him) "Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore we are all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded of thee of God." Paul faithfully and clearly presented the Gospel everywhere he went. 1Cor.11:1 "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. Now I praise you brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the ordinances as I delivered them."

Note in 1Cor.11:23 "For I received of the Lord that which I also delivered to you..."

The pattern of the Lord's Supper must be guarded. No plurality of cups or breads.

The pattern of the assembly (one man at a time speaking to one audience, with women remaining silent) must be guarded 1Cor.14 and 1Tim.2:11-12.No man-made Sunday school.

The pattern of vocal music i.e. "singing and making melody in the heart" must be guarded Col. 3:16 and Gal. 5:19. No instrumental music.

The pattern of a godly life, free from the sin and evil of the present world, must be guarded 1John 2:15-17.

#### VII. Guard The Faith By Defending It Against Its Enemies

2Tim. 4:7 "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:"

They were offended at the preaching of Jesus, John, Stephen, Paul. Read 2Tim.4:14-18.

Acts 17:16 "Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry."

The enemies of the faith are many. From the beginning they have sought to disrupt,

disclaim, and destroy it. They have resorted to murder, mischief, and mayhem. What would otherwise be natural enemies, combine their efforts in an attempt to destroy the faith once delivered. They shall not succeed. The faith will ultimately triumph.