

**How does the church guard the truth of the Gospel?**

1) **Fulfill the Stewardship Faithfully:** V20, "Guard what was entrusted to you," in V21, what was entrusted: "the faith." Stewardship is an accountability for another's property. 2 Cor.4:2: the message of the Gospel is God's message not crafty, deceitful men. Paul describes the stewardship of the proclamation of God's truth throughout 1 Timothy. In verse 1:4; it is the "stewardship" of the household of God. V1:8, using the law lawfully so that we might not sin against God, Ps. 119:11. V1:9-10, the law is for unbelievers to help them understand the holiness of God and their need for a Savior. V1:11 the Gospel of the blessed God "entrusted" to us to make worshippers from sinners. V1:15, to save sinners, Christ came to save sinners. V1:19, "holding faith and a good conscience." V2:3-4, to come to the knowledge of truth and salvation. V2:7, sole calling to teach the revelation of God found in the Bible. V3:2, elders with the ability to teach the truth. V3:5, to take care of the household of God.

**The Church's Responsibility:** The whole church is to keep the truth, V3:15, "the pillar and foundation of the truth." The church values, prioritizes, and elevates the truth, longing for the word of God, 1 Pet. 2:2. 1 Tim. 4:6, the brethren are to be instructed in these things. V4:11, "command and teach." V4:13, central feature of the proclamation of the truth is the reading and application of the Word of God. V4:16, "Persist in [teaching] them [doctrines]." V5:1-2: Teach the old and young. Elders are to labor (toil, sweat) in teaching Gospel truth, V5:17. Elders "teach and urge these things," V6:2. Lastly, Paul tells Timothy, V6:13-14, continue doing it until the Lord's appearing.

2) **Defend the Gospel Authoritatively,** V20, "avoid," the profane and idle babblings. "Avoid," is to turn away, dodge. "Babble," is empty chatter. From 2 Tim.2:16, babble leads to more ungodliness and sin. Truth leads to sanctification, Jn. 17:17. From V21, "contradictions," the church is to watch for deceptions. V1:3, perversions of the Gospel. V1:4, myths, speculations, endless genealogies. V1:6, wandered away to vain discussions. Avoid a false gospel of ascetism, from 1 Tim. 4:1-4, which are teachings from demons. V4:7, silly wives fables and irreverent myths. V6:4, disputes and quarrels over words. The Gospel isn't controversial. Allow no perversions, proclaim the Gospel truth in prayers, word, and song.

3) **Warn the Arrogant Boldly:** The Gospel to be proclaimed to unbelievers who might hear and believe. V21, those professing to have "knowledge" have strayed from the faith. Those in V1:6, "swerving," from the faith. V1:7, those who desired to be teachers who did so out of selfishness without a pure heart and sincere faith which is commanded in V1:5. V1:18, confronting false teaching is described as "waging the good warfare." V1:19, those perverting the Gospel and "the faith," have shipwrecked their lives. From V3:6, those "puffed up," fall into the temptation and reproach of the devil. From V4:1, those who "depart from the faith." The mission is Col. 1:28, "Him we proclaim, teaching and warning every man in all wisdom, that we present every man mature in Christ Jesus."

4) **Glorify the Lord Theologically:** ascribing, crediting, attributing glory and honor to God. See: Deut. 32:3, 1Chron. 16:28-29, Job 36:3, Ps. 29:1. V21, "Grace be with you," is a shortened version of V1:2. It is a celebration of the grace of God the Father that comes through the Son.

3 Mountain Peaks of Doxology to the Lord in 1 Timothy:

1. **1 Tim. 1:17**, A Peak focused on God our King of all ages. He transcends our death, and all ages, now and in the future. Immortal: imperishable, incorruptible, nothing of God ever decays. Invisible: unseen to all unless He chooses. The image of the invisible God seen in Jesus, Col. 1:15. The One and only God, He is One. Honor and glory are due Him forever. Honor due Him in public and worthy of all glory.
2. **1 Tim. 3:16**, A Peak Focused in God the Son.
  - i. Incarnation of Christ: God in the flesh the eternal bridge to those in the flesh. Jn. 1:14, Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us. For all eternity, that in the flesh, I can view God in the person of Jesus.
  - ii. Resurrection of Christ: vindication being resurrected by the Spirit, Rom. 1:4.
  - iii. Authentication of Christ: angels ministered to Christ. Angels present at his birth, temptation, anguish in Gethsemane, His resurrection, and ascension.
  - iv. Proclamation of Christ: Matt. 28:19, making disciples of all nations.
  - v. Occupation of Christ: believed on by Gentiles and present in the world occupying Satan’s world. The apostles turning the world upside down, Acts 17:6.
  - vi. Glorification of Christ: Jn. 17:5, Christ glorified as He had with the Father in heaven.
3. **1 Tim. 6:15-16**, A Peak of the person of God the Father. God is the Blessed One. It describes His total happiness, His lack of frustration of any kind, He has no anxiety, no angst, no worry, never once wrung His hands. Because God controls, plans, and knows the outcome of everything and it gives Him unending delight.
  - i. He is the only Sovereign – He has no rivals. He didn’t earn His sovereignty- He is the Sovereign. His intrinsic character is that He is God of gods and Lord of lords. His power over all powers in spiritual and human realms.
  - ii. God is the fountain of life. Immortality is God’s alone. Ps. 36:9.
  - iii. God dwells in unapproachable light- He is beyond. He is unapproachable unless He permits. He is invisible. No one knows anything about God unless He grants it.

## Further Discussion and Application

How can we guard the truth of the word of God in the church? How do we protect the truth given to us by God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) that sanctifies us? Consider Col. 1:28 and the hope given to us through proper use of the Word of God?

How does our worship to God increase as we look at, study, and learn the passages about God in 1 Tim. 1:17, 3:16, and 6:15-16?

How do we view the gifts God has given us to use in our lives, in our homes, and in the church? Where does worship for God belong in each part of our lives? How do we demonstrate and live out a life that is devoted to God in worship to Him?

How has this sermon changed your view of God and your worship of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?