



What's the most valuable thing you've ever been entrusted with?

- Possession? Responsibility?
- A time when I failed on both counts! Race horse story...

We're beginning 6 weeks in 2 Timothy

The Message of this book: We've been entrusted with something:

- More valuable than any possession
- More important than any responsibility

Entrusted with the gospel. The message of salvation in Jesus Christ. Given into our care. Given to us so that we can show it and tell it to the world!

How will the Sunshine Coast hear? No other way.

My hope for this series is that we'll feel the weight of this -- and be different at the end.

What was Paul's situation? It was grim:

- In jail (again)
- Facing death (It came soon after)
- Abandoned by friends
- Society very hostile (The Emperor Nero)
- The fruit of his ministry seemed to be unravelling ("All in Asia abandoned him")

Not unlike Australia! Operation World reports:

- Christianity ridiculed, marginalised, thought out of date...
- Growth rates (Evangelical Christians 1.1%, Buddhists 5.5%, Muslims 4.7%, Hindus 4.6%)

How would the gospel continue??!? Paul's answer: Timothy!

- Young co-worker, had worked alongside Paul for a long time
- Pastor of the church at Ephesus
- Paul is **nearing death, passing the sacred trust** to Timothy

Like a movie scene – gather's his final strength, fixing Timothy with a steely gaze

"Timothy, you've been entrusted with the gospel."

We should hear that too: Lakeshore, you've been entrusted...

That's what Paul says in these first 14 verses: Timothy, you've been entrusted with the gospel.

1. WHO entrusted Timothy with the gospel?

- 1. Most recently: Paul (v 2-4) ("my dear son" etc)
- 2. Further back: Family (v5)

For me:

- My family (Dad's story)

- People along the way: e.g. Andrew B at uni
- For you? Family – maybe, maybe not. People?

- 3. Deeper & truer answer: God!
 - o He drew us (v9-10)
 - o The gospel (10b)

Imagine the Queen entrusted you with the crown jewels, delivered by a royal messenger and the Queen's guards with great ceremony

Who "entrusted" you? On one level, the messenger did. More truthfully & significantly, the Queen herself did

Apply it: If we really are going to accept that we have been **Entrusted...**

- Look back in your life and see how it actually happened
- Who delivered the gospel to you?
- Then, recognise that God did it!
 - o God saved you (re-word verse 10, verse 9 with "you")
 - o That is how God has entrusted to you the message of his salvation for others!
 - o **We've been entrusted with the gospel because we've been saved by the gospel**

This is crucially important

- Have you been saved by the gospel?
- Are you full of gratitude / worship in response?
- **Our level of commitment to the mission of the gospel will match your level of worship for the gospel**

2. WHAT do we do with it?

- Read v6-7
 - o For this reason (i.e. since you've been entrusted)
 - o Fan the gift into flame (gospel or gift) (dull vs bright)
 - o Live in light of it: Not timidly, but with power, love, self-discipline

This is how we should live -- lives built on the gospel!!! Let it go deep inside you! Devote time and thought to it!! Move from head to heart.

More specific instructions (to be faithful to this trust):

- Speak the gospel unashamedly (v8)
 - o Words are needed
- Suffer for the gospel (v8)
 - o If we are not ashamed, we will suffer. You'll stand out.
- Live a holy life in light of the gospel (v9)
 - o Set apart. Speak AND live.
- Guard it (v13-14)
 - o Gospel unchanging. False teachers. Update the gospel.

Illustration: "Deposit" (v14) – This is a financial term – we should put it to work. Given a deposit? If you put it under the bed, it's as if you didn't have it! Put it to work to achieve it's purpose (spend it, give it away, invest it). **BUT** not hide it. Don't say thanks, but it goes no further.

(Read Matt 25:14-18.)

Apply: Fan the gospel into flame in your life.

Live with power, love, self-discipline (not timidity or shame)

Speak it: When explaining an attitude or a behaviour, answering a question, don't skirt the issue or hide the real reason for who you are. Point to Jesus as the foundation of your life.

Suffer for it: We sometimes face a crossroads, and risk ridicule or exclusion

Live in light of it: The world constantly invites us to live according to its standards, but the gospel has a different standard – worship Jesus, not your own desires

Guard it: Challenges are many: e.g. other religions can also save, Jesus didn't rise from the dead, He was just a good man (not God). The gospel is not ours to change. Guard it!

But how? How can I not be ashamed... because I have to admit that sometimes I am...

3. HOW is it possible to be faithful to this trust?

v14 "With the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us"

We can live this way – **because the Holy Spirit is in us!**

So whose responsibility is it? Ours or God's? Both. We are, because we've been entrusted. God is, because it happens by his power. (Remember the Queen & the messenger)

Many hints in this passage:

v1 "Promise of life" (his promise, he will deliver it)

v6 God's gift! (Fan into flame)

v7 Given us his Spirit

v8 Suffer "by the power of God"

v9 He does the saving and calling (us and others)

v12 He is able to guard my deposit

v14 Guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us

Did you see the FA-18 Super Hornets in formation? Holy Spirit is our wingman as we preach the gospel.

Apply it: Did you notice that Paul prayed day & night (v3) Paul knew the source of power.

We must do the same. We've experienced God's power in our lives (We've been entrusted because we've been saved). In prayer we rely on and expect to see God's power helping us.

Paul wrote to Timothy to entrust him with the gospel. The gospel is always one generation from extinction.

We've been saved by the gospel. We've been entrusted with the gospel. We have the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Will we trust God, and **fan the gospel into flame** in our lives?

Will we trust God and **live with power, love, self discipline** instead of timidity and shame?

Will we trust God and **speak; suffer; live holy lives; guard** the gospel?

You've been saved by the gospel. You've been entrusted with the gospel.