

Good Stewards of the Gospel 1 Timothy 1:11-16

Introduction:

1. At the end of verse 11, we see that Paul had something committed to his trust. It was something glorious, and even more importantly, it was entrusted to him by God Almighty.
2. The Bible is clear that it was the glorious gospel (good news) of Christ.
3. Paul had received this gospel by direct revelation of Jesus Christ. He said it had been committed to his trust.
 - The word “committed” means “to deposit.”
 - **Illustration:** Deposit in a bank.
 - A deposit of truth had been committed to Paul, and his responsibility was to share it with others. **1 Thessalonians 2:4**
 - It was the good news that a complete sacrifice for the sins of the world has been offered by Jesus Christ on the cross, and through faith in Him alone we can be saved and forgiven of all of our sins and justified before God.
4. This glorious gospel has now been committed to us. The question is, “What are we going to do with it?” Will we take that deposit of truth and bury it? This is what many churches have done today.
 - They may have a beautiful building, a big budget, and a good show on Sunday morning, but where is the burning heart and passion to share the gospel of Christ with others? It is not a primary concern. It’s been buried underneath plans, goals, buildings, budgets, etc.
5. But I submit to you, members of Crossroads, that we exist for the purpose of speaking forth the gospel of Christ to others. It’s been committed to our trust.
6. We must be faithful stewards with the gospel of Christ. We must speak it forth, proclaim it, and make it known. And we must help our collaborators to speak it forth. Why is this so vital?

First, because the power of the gospel changes lives – vs. 13

1. Sometimes we forget what kind of man Paul was before Christ saved him. vs. 13
 - Blasphemer – It means “using or given to coarse language, being vulgar or evil.”
 - Persecutor – He was a Pharisaical Gestapo agent, arresting and harassing Christians.
 - **Illustration:** Imagine somebody coming into our assembly, beating us, arresting us, and hauling us off to prison – that is what Paul did before Christ.
 - Injurious – It comes from a root word which means “to exercise violence, abuse.”
2. But notice verse 13 says, “*Who was before...*” Paul wasn’t that any more. God had changed Paul completely. Instead of blaspheming Jesus, now he was

- preaching Jesus. Instead of persecuting believers, he was the one being beaten and persecuted. cf. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 1 Thessalonians 1:9, 1 Peter 4:3-4**
3. When people believe on Christ, their sins are washed away, the Spirit of God enters and places them in Christ. They are given a new identity and forever changed!
 4. Why would we want to hide something that good?
 - **Illustration:** Grocery store hiding food, car dealership hiding cars, hardware shop hiding their tools – if they believe it’s good, they want it out there so people can buy it.
 5. Why would we want to hide the gospel of Christ? We have to let it be known. There are people in Mexico whose lives can be changed, but we have to help men like Brother Jeff share it and get it to them.

Second, because now is the time of God’s grace – vs. 14

1. Grace is receiving God’s favor when we don’t deserve it. Paul said that we are now living in the dispensation of grace. We live in a privileged time in which God is freely dispensing His grace to anybody who will simply believe on Jesus Christ. **Titus 2:11**
 - **Illustration:** A policeman pulls you over for doing 50 in a 30. These marvelous words come from his lips, “I’m going to give you a warning.” That is grace. That ticket represents eternal hell. We deserve it as sinners, but God is offering us His grace through Christ.
2. What an age we live in! Anyone, anywhere, can be a recipient of God’s grace by simply calling on the Lord Jesus Christ, and believing on Him alone for eternal life. You can’t work for grace or earn grace. It is a free gift given to those who simply believe. **Romans 6:23**
3. But this grace period will not last forever. This world deserves the wrath of God and when this grace period ends, all those who have received God’s grace will be taken from this earth, and all those left behind will incur the wrath of God.
4. This is why we must be faithful stewards with the gospel of Christ. The time could be short. Now is the time to share the message of grace with a world that desperately needs it.

Third, because Christ’s purpose and mission is to save the lost – vs. 15

1. Paul clearly reveals to us the purpose and mission of Christ. It is to save sinners. Jesus was a missionary. He left heaven and came to earth. Why? To save sinners.
2. He made this possible by dying on the cross for our sin and rising again the third day. He is a living Savior that can save and cleanse sinners, but not if they don’t hear the good news. **Romans 10:13-14**
3. This is where we, the church, fit in. If the purpose and mission of Christ is to be fulfilled (saving sinners), then we must be Christ’s hands, feet, and mouth, and take the gospel of Christ to this world.

4. Obviously our church is limited as to what we actually, physically do, but we can support financially others around the world and help them to be able to share the gospel of Christ.
5. Christ is no longer here in the flesh. He went away and is in heaven. It is now up to us. We are His ambassadors (representatives) on this earth. The gospel has been committed to us. What kind of stewards will we be?

In Conclusion:

1. You may ask, “What is at stake? What if we aren’t good stewards of the gospel of Christ? What if CrossRoads fails to be the stewards we need to be?”
2. Here is what is at stake – eternal souls! Look at verse 16. Did you notice what happens to a sinner who believes on Christ? He receives everlasting life.
3. But what about the ones who are dying, as we speak right now, without Christ who have never heard? They will slip into a Christless eternity with no hope of heaven.
4. We must be faithful stewards of the gospel of Christ. Let’s focus on you as an individual. What are you doing to help CrossRoads be faithful in spreading the gospel of Christ?

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