

Why Does The Treasure Need to be Guarded

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Lets Pray together:

Lord as we look at your word today, It's an honor that we can do that, it's your grace that you've provided for us. Providing your word, providing your spirit, providing each other time to look together at what you said. We depend on you, we depend on you to open our eyes and our hearts, to what you have to say to us. Lord, we would ask that you give us open Hearts and open minds. Lord, that you would challenge us, where we need to be challenged and courage us, where we need to be encouraged. Fill us with your sense of faithfulness and loving kindness. Knowing your hand is upon us. Help us not to suppress you, or resist you, but to welcome you. And Lord, as I speak, I would ask that the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart would be acceptable to you and that you would accomplish what you intend for your kingdoms purposes. I pray this in Jesus name, Amen

Looking at a short series of sermons called "Guarding the Treasure". This is what we're calling family celebration month, in our Sunday school times. We are going through some material that we often do, usually do in our new members class, but we decided to do it on Sunday school time, Sundays, so that more people might be involved. And also to remind those of us who have been around for a little while, to remind us more about why we do what we do. And it's been a good reminder. My sermons during this month are intended to be complimentary to reinforce, not reiterate, not repeat, but to reinforce the theme of talking about who it is that we are, and why we belong to each other, and why we do what we do. And so we are calling it family celebration month. And I think that there's a question that needs to be answered. That is; *What is the most important task of the church?* Now I'm aware of the fact that we can talk about that for a while, you know there could be some debate and discussion. And perhaps at various times of history or various times in a church, there might be different things that is the most important task.

But when we read Paul's letters to pastors, the Pastoral Epistles first and second Timothy and Titus, you read these and you see that there is something very important on his mind. This is the important task that he wants them to do and focus on. In this stage of his life and this stage of his ministry, in this stage of the life of the church. Which is why God has him write these and preserve them for us, but in this time, its around 60-63-65 AD and the church has been around for a few decades and they've had a few bumps, and they're gone on a few roller coasters and so forth? As you can tell by reading these Pastoral Epistles, and so Paul who is about to be executed, he knows it. You can read 2nd Timothy and say it's time. That's compared to when he's writing Philippians. And he writes Philippians when he's in jail, and there's the chance that he *might* be executed. When he writes Philippians he say's I know it's not my time, the spirit of God has told me, it's not yet. In fact there's more time that goes by, but when it comes to 2nd Timothy, He says it's time. And he knows it's a matter of weeks, months, whatever It is. And he writes to them this most important thing that I want you to do.

And as we celebrate who we are and recognize who we are as a church, as a church family. I think we need to have the same focus. What's the most important thing we can do? You can find it, I believe in one thesis, one verse, that summarizes it all, It's the all in what he wrote in those Epistles, *"Guard though the Holy Spirit the treasure that has been entrusted to you"*.

We took out that phrase [*screen diagram of words*] and we'll put it back, don't worry, next week. But for emphases, he's saying **guard the treasure** which has been entrusted to you. We asked the question last week what's the treasure? And I'm not going to repeat the whole sermon, so I summarized in the one slide. But as we look at what the treasure is, if you were to read chapters 1 and 2 in 2nd Timothy verses 8 through 14. There's several times when he says, you who are saved, who are called, who are granted grace, and were filled by the Holy Spirit. You in other places, you are his bride, his body, his family, his Heritage. And the reason I put Heritage, because you that he's talking to. The us that he's talking to, actually goes all the way back in history from Genesis all the way to Revelation. In our point in time here in surface Creek all the way to when Jesus comes back. We are part of a

Heritage, we're part of something big that he's doing. His treasure is his people that he's called out.

It's the *us*, the *us* in any particular period of time. And I asked the question when you see that **us** did you think of us? That I looked at last week, now you know and I know, that the body of Christ is bigger than Grand Mesa Southern Baptist Church. You know and I know that. But how we relate to the people, we can see, and the people that we know, is a direct reflection of what we think of the big picture. The big body of history that God has been making of himself. If I can put it in a crude way, somebody can say, a man could say I love women. But then there's his wife. Do you love your wife? A woman could say I love men. Do you love your husband? You see you can say it in a broad-broad spectrum, I *like* people. But then as my daughters have found out, then you get roommates. [laughter] And some of them do the dishes and some of them don't and some of them clean the bathrooms and some of them don't.

So when you talk about *us*, what you think about the body of Christ will be demonstrated, reflected, lived out, as you see you relating to the people around you. So that's why I called *us* the treasure, recognizing there's a lot of treasures in surface Creek. There's a lot of treasures in Delta County, Mesa County, in Colorado, as we've heard in our missions time in around the world. Some of you know, some of those treasure people in other parts of the world, and you pray for them. But that's what I look at now, is looking at us. And now I told you something and it wasn't true, and I didn't mean to make it a lie, but I told you that this week, we're going to ask the question *How is it guarded?* This is the treasure, what is the treasure? How is it guarded? And as I was reading first and second Timothy and Titus, and I would encourage you to do the same. Whenever I do one of these series you'll get more out of it, if during the week you just read the same passages with me. I know you have your own place, but read along. There's only what? 10-12 chapters not too much and as I was reading through 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus, I realized I couldn't jump into how's it guarded, for answered the question, why does the treasure need to be guarded? Why? You know in some ways and I guess that's the reason I missed it until this week, as I was studying again, this is a fairly obvious, I think

obvious question. When Paul is writing Timothy and Titus, he doesn't say *why* the treasure needs to be guarded. As he writes about guarding the treasure, he sharing something that's fairly obvious that they know, they understand, they understand there are threats, they understand that there's an enemy, they understand these things are going on. And so for them it was fairly obvious. And sometimes for us, it's fairly obvious, but it doesn't hurt to be reminded of the fact that there is an enemy who *hates* the treasure. There is an enemy that hates the treasure. In some ways I'm going to remind you of something that you say, yeah we knew that. But in other ways I want to remind you of something that you really shouldn't forget. If you really want to grow and help those around you grow and become all that God wants them to be.

So why does the treasure need to be guarded? What is the identity of the enemy? I'm going to run through this, because there's something that I want to share it. What's the identity? There's two versus, in passing where Paul mentions the enemy in 1st Timothy Chapter 1 verse 20.

I Timothy 1:20 Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.

And in 2nd Timothy chapter 2 verse 26 he mentions the enemy's name in passing. And again because it's obvious to Timothy that there's an issue that we're dealing with, it's Satan, and the devil.

II Timothy 2:26 And they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

Why does the obvious need to be restated? I can think of two reasons; one is, in our world today, let me be more specific, in our Western world today, the idea that there is a Satan and a devil is something that is relegated to movies about vampires. And we don't think it's real. In fact, I was talking with the pastor's, we have breakfast on Thursday and we were talking about this, this week. Said that, all of the rest of the world except the Western World when you talk about Satan and the devil and demons and talk about spiritual warfare they go oh yeah, yeah they

know. But when you come to the Western world, and I know that there's some, there's so much emphasis on enlightenment, there's so much emphasis on reason, there's so much emphasis on education, and government policies. And we can fix everything in that kind of thing that the enemy is called poverty, the enemy is called ignorance, the enemy is called ideology, and we will label them and us. And all those kinds of things, and we fall into our Western World, in our we can do all things, we say the enemy is us. The Enemy is them, there is no big enemy, and in our western world we just gloss over everything, and forget there is a warfare that takes place, and you've been in church for a-while and you've heard this before.

And so there's a second reason, why I think that the obviously needs to be pointed out, and that is the church hears these things so often and often forgets so that we often think that the enemy is the person who annoyed us, that the enemy is the people around us, that the enemy is our structure you know when I when you get these magazines about Christian books. and I know I know you do it different times in the bookstores are kind of going the way of the dinosaur which breaks my heart in some ways and otherwise I'm glad because then I'm not tempted. When I go into those places. [laughter] Many times the church will come under the understanding that if we would just do things a certain way, all of our problems would be solved. And so our enemy is structural for organizational. We do need to be structured and organized, we talked about that in our Sunday school time, and it needs to fit into God's pattern. But you know there is no perfect constitution.

Because there's no perfect people and we forget that's how we work together. That's why we have our covenants that you see on the back of your bulletin, on the wall, is to remind us of whatever our structure is. How we relate to one another is important and if we forget that there is an enemy who doesn't want us to work well together. And we will fall into his traps. So we have to state the obvious sometimes. I want to stay one more thing that's obvious. The purpose of the enemy if you're to look it up in 1st Timothy Chapter 1 verse 10.

I Timothy 1:10 and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching.

And I will read some more scripture in a minute. And almost in passing he mentions the wondrous and glorious thing that Jesus has come and purchased for us on the cross life so that *death* might be abolished. You could almost miss that, because as Christians we get so excited about what Jesus has done, and we should. But the fact of the matter is that the purpose of the enemy is death! And we can't forget that, through Jesus we have the victory. But when Jesus said in John chapter 10 verse 10; that the thief comes to steal and to destroy. He means it

John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and to destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

The enemy is not interested in conquest, the enemy is interested in total destruction. And when we allow ourselves to be tools of the enemy or when we allow the enemy to take control of our families, or our church's. So whatever you need to understand that you're not just compromising morals. It will never be satisfied, the enemy will never be satisfied until you and your family and your church and your country are destroyed. That's the truth, that's the way he works. He's not satisfied with that. If you were to read Matthew chapter 10. Jesus is talking honestly to his disciples and he says guys; if I can paraphrase a whole chapter in a sentence or two, it's going to get rough! And he's quoting Micah and he says, even your father and your mother, and your son-in-law and daughter-in-law, and brothers and sisters, are going to fight against you, and that's what he says; that's the way it is.

The strong part of it as he encourages and says don't worry you're not going to finish the task until I'm seated on my Throne now that's a sermon from a month two ago. Jesus was always honest with his disciples, he said there is an enemy his objective is to destroy you. Not just to be tolerant and get along with you. If that's true? Why does it need to be guarded? Because though is an enemy we also need to see the faces of the enemy or if I can put it a different way the ways he demonstrates himself the way he reveals himself you might not see it right away because it's not his face it's other faces. Maybe you've heard it this way, it's called Satan the world in the flesh. Now you've heard that these are the enemies, and I agree. But I find it interesting that as Paul

is talking to his disciples he puts it in different terms. He puts the enemy in different terms. Let me read that for you 2nd Timothy chapter 2 verse 26 well let's start with 24 first.

*II Timothy 2:24 The Lord's bondservant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,
2:25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,
2:26 And they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*

Dr. Del Tackett in Our Truth project videos on Sunday night, has said something a couple of times, quoting that verse. That really stuck in my mind, it was two or three weeks ago the idea of looking at people that are being used by the enemy, that are the face of the enemy. As captives! They don't know what they're talking about, they don't know what they're doing. Jesus on the cross said; "Father forgive them they don't know what they're doing" and he was right. They thought they knew what they were doing, but they didn't. And our enemy and the way that our enemy expresses himself in the face that he presents to us isn't very different ways many different ways but we always have to keep in mind that they too and we at times are prisoners of war. Being taken advantage of in some ways cooperating and if you're honest with yourselves you know that there's times you cooperate with the enemy. But let's look at what I mean, there's the enemies around you, there's the enemy within you, and there's the enemy among you. I'm going to take a little time with each one.

We know about Satan we know his objective is to destroy but when we see the faces or the people that he's taken captive around us and in us and among us. We will have a different perspective of what exactly were needing to wrestle with to fight. For instance around you, I put **captives** up there in the corner as you see it right there it's going to be on all the slide because I don't want us to forget. Interesting verse there in 2nd Timothy if you were to read all of chapter 3, which you could at another time, but beginning with Verse 8.

II Timothy 3:8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith.

You know he's setting them up, when he's talks about Jannes and Jambres. He says you know back in verse one

II Timothy 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

3:2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

3:3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal haters of good,

That's not a list that you like, but it's a list I can identify with.

3:4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

3:5 holding to a form of godliness, al-though they have denied its power; Avoid such men as theses.

Just like Jannes and Jambres.

Anybody know who, these guys are? [Anne S. answers] Oh, she's got footnotes in her Bible. You know that just ruins a lot of good sermons, you know, when you sound so smart and you have the information. When somebody out there has an iPad and they Googled it. [laughter] Whatever, your right! [Dennis laughing]

There's nowhere else in the Bible except here in 2nd Timothy that these names are given, Jannes and Jambres. But When you read some of the folklore or some of the rabbinical writings around Paul and Timothy's time, they put names to some guys, that the scripture doesn't give names too. If you go back to Exodus chapter 3 or chapter 7, Exodus chapter 8, and there's some in Second Kings, you'll find out you'll remember the story; Moses's in the wilderness and God calls, and he says I'm going to send you back to Egypt. And Moses's say's, yeah I'm ready to go! No, he didn't! He said send somebody else, because he

knew what it was like in the court of Egypt. And God says, no, I'm sending you, and I'll give you some signs, you'll take this rod and staff you'll throw it down and it'll turn into a snake and you'll pick it up and you'll put your hand inside of your cloak, and bring it out it'll be diseased and you'll put it back and everything will be healthy. I'll give you all these signs, and so Moses goes back (cutting the story short) and he goes to Pharaoh's court. And he starts doing these signs and the magicians are able to do some of the same ones. Because there is a demonic world and Moses throws down the staff and it becomes a snake, the magicians pick it up and they look at Moses and say that's no big deal. Moses turns some of the water into blood and they pull that off as well. And they say that's no big deal and they can make frogs come out of nowhere. And Moses does that, and the Magicians do the same thing. But after a little bit it's like God is just leading them down the path and then God through Moses starts doing things they can't do and the *ten plagues*, God destroys all of their gods. All of them!

Well, in traditional and lore, kinda like, we would give names to King Arthur. Did King Arthur really exist? Maybe, maybe not, but there's a lot of stories that come up around him. Robin Hood did he really exist? Maybe, maybe not, but there's a lot of stories that come up around him.

And in these accounts, theses really happened, in Exodus 7 and 8 that is really true. The Rabbi started telling the stories, they gave them names Jannes and Jambres. So if you were to read their story books in the first century, those are the names that they would give to the sorcerers. It's kind of Paul's way of sneaking it in, I think, of saying you know what there is going to be enemies around you. There's going to be officials, there's going to be governments, there's going to be teachers, there's going to be schools, whatever. There's just going to be things in your culture that are outside of the body of faith. And they're going to oppose you, and sometimes they're going to do really good things, and you going to say; wow! That was amazing. But they can't do what God can do. And recognized that the enemies will be there. We know that.

Let me just give an example that I saw this week There's an article called Masters of Illusion by Barry W. Bussey and The Seventh-Day

Adventist magazine, Liberty, that I read. I have copies of it in the back if you want to read it. But what's happened, in the Supreme Court of Canada, the School Trinity Western University, which is in British Columbia, they've had to go before The Supreme Court several times over the last 10 years, most recently 2018. They had to go to the Supreme Court because somebody sued them, because the school, which is a liberal arts Christian School. And they had one section that they wanted to include in their requirements for students coming in, it was a *covenant* that said if you're going to be a student of our school, then you have to adhere to Christian principles of relationships. In other words the girls can't be in the boys dorm, the boys can't be in the girls dorm. And there'll be no premarital sexual relationships, and there will be no homosexual relationships, or lesbian relationships, and these kinds of things. This is just not the way we're going to behave on this Christian campus. Trinity Western University is a private university, privately funded. It is not a government school. Somebody sued them and said you were too restrictive in your views, you need to be more accommodating to everybody.

And so it goes to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court talking about what they call Charter values. Charter values just means going back to their Constitution Bill of Rights but reads into it and says what they really meant was, and what they really meant was we all out to just get along, and you guys aren't getting along, and so you will lose your accreditation and we will close down the school if you initiate this agreement that your students have to abide by. The Supreme Court said you can't do it. Because of their charter values, and just as soon as that was passed and they go back to the school, people are writing into the editor all kinds of things, saying that they didn't go far enough, because not only the students but all of the faculty and all of the staff should **not** be held to that standard. You have to open the door wide open and just let anybody into teach or pretend. Wow! It's almost like an Equal Opportunities Act! Isn't it? Did I say that? I did!

What Paul is saying, is you shouldn't be surprised when the world doesn't like what you doing. In fact at the end of chapter 3 of 2nd Timothy, he says indeed all who desire to live Godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, it's just the way it is, there's enemies around us.

What he's really saying is, don't be surprised it's common. The faces of the enemy captives which by the way, I believe that Supreme Court of Canada is captive to do the will of the evil one. And needs to be prayed for and spoken to in that way, just as many of our congressman, their not our enemies, the enemy has taken them captive.

There's the Enemy Within you. Now we need to be *real* here for just a second, you know this sermon, this series could go on for long-long time. But I am going to finish about 12:30, don't worry. [laughter]

The enemies within *us*, whenever we start looking for enemies out there, we have to recognize that there's enemies in here. Paul is very honest, when he writes Timothy, in chapter one verse 7.

II Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

God didn't give us a spirit of fear, didn't he" God didn't give us a spirit of fear. With, Timothy, there's all kinds of guessing about this guy. You know did he have a spirit of fear? Well, why else would Paul put that? Was he a little timid? It even says that God didn't give him this youthful insecurity that he had. In 1st Timothy chapter 4 verse 12.

I Timothy 4:12 Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show your-self an example of those who believe.

And so, it looks to me like Timothy has this internal stuff, where the enemy says, come on you're just a kid, and you don't know what you're talking about. And I understand that, very well. I was pastoring a church when I was 22, and I look back on that. And people, other people that were in the church, several that were in their seventies, and so forth, and they were so gracious, and they were so kind, and they were so supportive. They prayed for us so much. I laugh out loud, when I think these Godly people, who'd been walking with the Lord for 50 years, I was their Pastor. [laughs] Come on.

Timothy is doing the same thing, God has called Timothy this young man, and Paul says to Timothy, ok, there are some areas inside your heart that Satan will attack. Fear, I'm just a kid. He goes on, and talks about youthful lust, chapter 2 verse 22.

II Timothy 2:22 Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Something is going on inside of you, because you're that age, because of whatever he says, you know that's where Satan is going to attack. Pay attention.

Now that's Timothy's list, I don't need to dwell a long-long time on that one. But do you have your own list? Have your own list? Are you know at certain stages of Life? Certain ages of Life, certain things that are going on that you know that in your own heart, in your own mind. You know some of those aches and pains, and some of those doctors, and some of those bills and finances and stuff. Does any of that get onto you? Are those areas where he can start attacking? Of course there are. And then there's one more, I throw this one in, just for fun, because it's *Politically Incorrect*, this is one of my favorite verses in all the Bible, sorta of.

Titus 1:12 One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

This testimony is true. Ah, come on, Nobody laughed? [laughter] Why did God put that in there? You know there's a cultural weaknesses there, things that you came from, a part of your family, came from the West, you came from what ever. There are things Satan will attack in our culture. You know what Americans are known around the world as; loudmouths and arrogant, terrible dressers [Lynn speaking]. We don't know how to dress to go to church. We're rude, and you get overseas, and we had moved to Australia, and everybody was nice and polite, and everything. And after we've been there for several weeks, the pastor came over and sat down with us and said; well we've decided you're okay! [laughter]

Because you're not like most American's. And you know sometimes I've lead a lot of volunteer teams overseas, and sometimes Americans act rude, and loud and arrogant, and it's got to be our way. You know what there's cultural weaknesses, the family was raised in. All around, I don't want to dwell on this anymore. It's just theres away the enemy gets to us. You have to be smart enough to say ah-ha. I saw that, I saw that coming!

But then probably the most painful part is, the enemies among you. Among you, is talking about; the weak, the deceived, the depressed, the charlatans in the body of faith.

It's that one where he calls the people, the elders from Ephesus. And says, it's very similar to the Pastoral Epistles, because it's the last time Paul's going to see these Elders. Paul knows, he's on his way to prison, he knows the spirit has told him, I'll never see you again. And so he writes something very similar, to what he wrote in the Pastoral Epistles.

Acts 21:28 "be on. Guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

21:29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

And this is the hard verse;

21:30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

From among your own selves; You know when he said that, I don't know in that meeting, if they all started looking, you know what I mean; I'm never going to do that, but I can see that guy doing that, and I can see that lady doing that. I can see they got problems. Trying not to point anywhere here, Im trying to avoid that as much as I can. [laughter] But it says, among your own selves, there's going to be people who oppose the truth, because the enemy is going to hold some of you captives. Does that really happen? Really?

I was reading the rest of 2nd Timothy, 1st Timothy and 2nd Timothy, he names some names. There's Phygelus, and Hermogenes in chapter 1 verse 15 right after our key verse. Verse 15.

II Timothy 1:15 You are aware of the fact that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.

It doesn't say they were heretics, it says they were probably weak, they were deceived, they were depressed when soldiers came in and took Paul away and those guys weren't strong enough to hang around.

You know I think back in Jesus when he's in the Garden of Gethsemane before we start pointing fingers at Phygelus and Hermogenes. As I recall all twelve disciples, all eleven for sure ran. It was scary times throughout the history of the church, as the church has been persecuted from the first day until now there's scary times and some people turn.

When we worked with the refugees from Russia, there was a pecking order of who the most Godly ones were. The ones who came from Ukraine, the ones who came from Russia, and the ones who were being settled in Seattle. If the pastor still had all of his teeth, that meant he'd been a coward, and hadn't allow himself to be beaten. So they were not as favored. Hummm... scary times.

What about; Hermogenes and Phygelus? You find them in Chapter 2. I'm going to run along you can read their story, these are guys who bailed on me. What about Demas, in chapter 4, of 2nd Timothy. Even Demas, he says everybody's abandon me, even Dimas who loved this world more than the work, Dimas has taken off. And then he holds the strongest words there in chapter 4 verse 16. Even Alexander the coppersmith did me a lot of harm, don't trust him Timothy. Man; 2nd Timothy is a hard book to read. Some among you have done these things.

And I thought of some names. I remember Harold, I'll won't tell you what he did. I remember a guy named Verlin, not the one thats here.

Verlin thirty years, crooked guy, chairman of the Deacons. Crooked guy. I think of June sweet lady, lie though her teeth, tried to get the pastor kicked out. Betty was very effective at it. She'd driven six pastors out of the church. The whole time smiling and your friend. My advantage, I went into it, knowing about it. Long story. And then I had to laugh about Jannes and Jambres, because I know a guy named Yanice, he stole a lot of money from our mission, all the time acting like a person of the faith. These are hard words, hard words.

But if we are to guard the treasure, we have to recognize that his most effective weapon is to get into some of us, and twist our tail, getting into our inner weaknesses. As it says looking for money, looking for love, looking for whatever. And he gets us, the weak, the deceived the depressed, the charlatans.

Why does the treasure need to be guarded? It's just tactics of the enemy are two, you are familiar with; one is deception. I'm not going to elaborate, Jesus said; "he's a liar and the father of lies" and if you read 1st and 2nd Timothy, you're going to say that's what he's telling em, watch out, there's people lying. But you know what, the lies don't work. His second one is attack, all out attack. So the people will say and do things that they would never have said and done, and that's what's happening to Paul. It interesting when I read Paul's little notes. I won't read them all right now cuz you can read 2nd Timothy yourself.

But right there in chapter 1 verse 15, he says everybody in Asia left in Chapter 2 he says they're not hanging around in chapter 4 he says in my first time in trial, he's out of jail right now but he knows he's going back, my first time in trial then I had to stand before Caesar, nobody stood with me. Wow! Paul sounds pretty depressed, doesn't he? There he is an artist's conception. My first offense no one supported me but all deserted me. I wondered, I really wondered, you know Satan couldn't win, with Paul, with deception, because he'd studied, he knew, he heard the voice of the Lord, and what God has him write for us, is spot on. Of course, because God had him write it. The Holy Spirit lead him. But at the end of his life, the attack, and people you loved running. I wonder if he wasn't speaking with something of a hyperbole and exaggeration. I'm not saying he was, but you know as you read the rest of 2nd

Timothy, there's a lot of guys that were still for him, he has Timothy, and Titus and he had Luke and he had another guy, forgot his name, that was to be sent off to Corinth. Things are there were still people on the team. But it was really discouraging and defeating for the ones who had left.

It reminded me chapter 19 of 1st Kings with Elijah. Elijah calls down fire from heaven, and God's sends fire from heaven and destroys all of these prophets of Baal. And then he goes running, hiding and he's in the cave, and when God shows up. God says what are you doing here? And Elijah says I'm the only that stands for you. And God says I got seven thousands others who haven't bowed the knee, you're not the only one, but go ahead and take another nap, Elijah, you're tired.

Why does the treasure need to be guarded? Because there's an enemy who hates the treasure, and if we forget that, we will be blindsided. What do you do about it? To be continued next week! How's it guarded. God intends for us to have our eyes wide open. And to protect each other. Not fight for each other, but to protect each other. He intends for us to speak truth with one another, he expects us to take care of each other, he expects us to discipline each other. Because I don't want any of you taken captive by the enemy! And I hope you don't want me taken captive by the enemy. So get smart, *well actually get the Holy Spirit!*

That's what we'll talk about next week.

Lets Pray together;

Lord, as we look at this it's just such an oppressive an overwhelming piece of literature. As we read 2nd Timothy, our hearts go out to Paul, as he's sitting there in the prison. And we know that he knows that time's up, and you think that there'd be some people who stood with him. And it's kind of discouraging for him. But at the same time, he could say; just as we're going to sing here in a minute. He could say, I know whom I have believed, and I'm persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. Even though he was under attack he knew that, you were in charge. And we want to affirm in our worship right now. That though we personally, sometimes

are the face of the enemy, and though we see the enemy around and sometimes we participate in that. We now corporately, through song, through our prayer, turn our face back to you, and we bow before you, and as our earlier song said, we bow the knee before you. We want to, acknowledge, that you will keep and trust that which we committed to you, which is the treasure, the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, in our body and in our faith. So we want to end on that encouragement, and know that you have never left your throne. We give you praise and thanks, in Jesus name, Amen.

*Transcribed from 9-21-2019 sermon.

Please pardon the transcription errors.

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