



GUARD THE GOSPEL

A TIME FOR COURAGE

2 Timothy 1:1-7

BELIEVERS IN CHRIST CAN HAVE COURAGE BECAUSE:

I. There is PROMISE for the FUTURE.

- A. Fear of the unknown makes us hesitant, even helpless to venture.
- B. The fear of death holds people in slavery all their lives. (Heb. 2:15)
- C. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible offers divine promise of life.
- D. The message of the Gospel is that Jesus has overcome sin & death.
- E. From God and Christ come "grace to the worthless, mercy to the helpless and peace to the restless." (John Stott)

II. There is PURPOSE in the PAST.

- A. The deep cry of the human heart is for our life to have meaning.
- B. Apart from God, nothing that we do will ultimately matter or last.
- C. Faith in Christ illuminates our lives both forward and backward.
- D. God promises to restore even "the years that the locust has eaten."
- E. In God, we can be confident even when we don't understand it all.

III. There is POWER for the PRESENT.

- A. Our resources, our abilities and our skills are gifts to us from God.
- B. We have a responsibility to cooperate w/ God and develop them.
- C. Yet, talent, training & experience will not succeed w/o the Spirit.
- D. We battle not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces.
- E. Opposition to the Gospel is no excuse for timidity or cowardice.

CONCL: No matter what we face, we can have courage because of WHO Jesus is and WHAT he has done for us.

*"We exist to glorify God
by enabling all people
to become fully-devoted followers
of the Lord Jesus Christ."*