

Entrusted with the Gospel

2 Timothy 1:14

MPS God entrusts the treasure of the gospel to all who believe in Jesus to serve in our generation and pass it on to the next.

OBJ Every person can understand how we are entrusted with the gospel by three recognitions.

INTRO Have you ever received an heirloom gift from a grandparent or parent? Heirloom gifts carry a distinct significance in what you do with them. It's value is determined not so much by a market, but by the relationship with the one who gave it to you. The way you handle the gift honors one's relationship with the giver, to receive special priority in how you care for it.

READ

I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. ⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

*⁸Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, ¹²which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. ¹³Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you. **2 Timothy 1:3-14***

Paul, now advanced in years, writes to a younger Timothy while awaiting sentencing from his second imprisonment. There is a seriousness in what he writes to clarify what is most important to Timothy, knowing this will likely be his last opportunity. Timothy is no longer a kid but has gained some experience. In today's terms, he would have just enough experience in church leadership to start the 'deconstruction phase' of his faith; long enough to be familiar with the weight of gospel ministry, but tempted to shrink back in the face of suffering without Paul's guidance and encouragement.

Paul exhorts Timothy to guard the good deposit entrusted to him. He tells him how much of an encouragement he has been to Paul. He reminds Timothy of his faith that he learned from his mother and grandmother, and also his anointing he received from Paul in the laying on of hands. Finally, he reminds Timothy of the spirit God has given to him, not one of fear, but of power, love and self-control. [The Lord matured Timothy's faith and empowered him to lead the church.](#)

Paul is preparing Timothy for the great work of serving in gospel mission. His writes to strengthen and exhort Timothy to stand firm in his leadership, as he reminds him that God is the one who has entrusted Him with the treasure of the gospel. Drawing from his own experience, Paul knows his own life will soon end and he is doing all he can to ensure he passes the "baton of gospel mission" strongly to Timothy.

ILLUS An **athletic baton** is an instrument that links each individual member's effort to become one team. It must be properly handled for the team to be victorious because if one drops it all are disqualified. The most important aspect of the baton is the hand off. The one responsible for the hand off is the carrier, to place it firmly in the hand of the one receiving it.

[God entrusts the treasure of the gospel to all who believe in Jesus to serve in our generation and pass it on to the next.](#)



Q? What does it mean to say that we have been Entrusted with the gospel, and how do we guard it?

TRANS Paul's exhortation to Timothy answers this question. His counsel exhorts every Christian through the ages.

OBJ Three recognitions that must mark us as Entrusted with God's treasure, the gospel.

First, we recognize the treasure God has given to us in the gospel. 1:9-10

ILLUS In 2015 we took a family vacation to Washington DC. In touring one of the Smithsonian's we saw the Hope Diamond, a massive 45.52 carat, deep-blue gem. The diamond was impressive. But of far greater interest to me was the intricate detail to which the tour guide explained the layered security that guarded the diamond. I hoped I wouldn't raise concerns by my extensive "what would happen if I..." line of questioning I offered. I just couldn't help myself. I was so intrigued not because I wanted the diamond but because I wanted to see the security system in action. [It makes complete sense that the system created to guard the diamond would reflect the value of the diamond.](#)

When Paul exhorts Timothy to guard this gift from God with which he has been entrusted, he begins by focusing on the glory of the gift! God has saved and called us to a holy calling. He has done this for His purpose and grace, which He qualifies in two ways. God's purpose and grace was given in Jesus Christ before the ages began. God's purpose in our salvation is His eternal glory. And, God's purpose and grace was manifested by Jesus' incarnation, becoming man to be made the sinless, perfect sacrifice for sin. [God's full purpose and grace is revealed in Jesus Christ from all eternity to abolish death and bring eternal life through the gospel.](#)

What a gift of immeasurable value and glory! The crises of every age and all humanity, death, is only resolved by the gospel. But in the gospel, the power of God to save from sin and death to eternal life is given to all who believe in Jesus. What hope we have in Christ, that is eternal and been made known among us. And best of all, will never diminish in any way. [We recognize that the treasure God has deposited to us in salvation is of immeasurable value.](#)

TRANS "But..." Paul says, "I am not ashamed..."(.12) Just as he exhorted Timothy to not be ashamed.(.8) [With a treasure this glorious, what could there possibly be to be ashamed of for the power that conquers death?](#) More than we could imagine! The most glorious message of the ages is the most contentious battle of the ages, of our lives, and for the church.

Second, we recognize that serving the gospel is accompanied by suffering because the Enemy prowls to steal our treasure and thwart our mission. 1:8,12

Paul addresses the reality of the enemy by recognizing that the gospel is the reason for his suffering. And more than that only acknowledging it, he invites Timothy to share in it for the same reason. The importance of the gospel is due to its potency to abolish death and give eternal life, a message worthy of suffering. So Paul uses the term "guard" to remind Timothy to recognize that the Enemy aggressively works to steal this treasure and thwart the mission to advance it. [Knowing the opposition does not cause us to shrink back but to engage the battle because the treasure of the gospel is more glorious than any suffering.](#)

Suffering is a reality of every Christian that seeks to live faithful to Jesus. The enemy prowls to devour Christ-followers, defeat the work of the gospel, and destroy our faithful witness. He wants to convince you that Jesus is not worthy. And while our opposition is always spiritual, it often manifests in human form. This is why Paul names names in later verses, because people give in to threats and tactics and walk away, or some become agents of the Enemy to stir up strife and division, and oppose the work. Paul says, "I suffer because God appointed me as a preacher, apostle, and teacher of this message. But I am not ashamed." Instead of ashamed, he says, he is convinced that Jesus is able to guard what He has entrusted to us! [Paul fights the good fight to advance the gospel because our treasure is worth it; the Enemy is a defeated foe and our Savior worthy, and He will guard us in our treasure until the Day He comes for us.](#)

Suffering for the sake of the gospel is the call of every Christian because we recognize that the Enemy does not want the gospel to advance.(Philippians 1:29) Suffering for the sake of and as we serve the gospel is a reality we acknowledge and



willingly accept. We suffer because we enter into darkness, where sin and death are active, to bring light and hope to those in the kingdom of darkness. [We commend every Christian to share in suffering because we know the glory of serving the gospel is greater than any measure of suffering that it demands.](#)

Third, we recognize that how we “guard” the treasure reveals what we believe about the Treasure-giver.

1:13-14

We guard the treasure God has given to us because we are convinced that in the gospel He is able to guard our lives given to Him. Jesus is worthy. His Word is sufficient. Holy Spirit enables God’s power to the full measure and more! “Guard” does not mean “to keep away from” but “to keep watch over” in a way that rightly secures the treasure. This treasure is one that is entrusted to us. Therefore, to properly guard the treasure we must actively entrust it to all to whom we are able.

We guard the treasure by following the pattern of sound words in the faith and love of Jesus Christ. These words are the whole counsel of God’s Word in the Bible. These words are the doctrines of our faith that the Apostles established and set forth for us in applying God’s Word through the person and work of Jesus Christ. These words are the truth we speak in love to become like Jesus. We are not talking about “stone cold teaching” with which we beat people over their head, but life-giving. And by cultivating God’s Word among us, Holy Spirit empowers His life within us and His mission and ministry through us. [We preach and teach the whole counsel of God’s Word because through it the glory of God’s eternal wisdom comes to bear upon our life by the finished work of Jesus Christ to bring light and light, and transformation into His likeness.](#)

APPL The treasure of the gospel is the baton in our hands, LifePoint. We are charged to train up the next generation in the truth of Jesus Christ and place it securely in their hands.

[God entrusts the treasure of the gospel to all who believe in Jesus to serve in our generation and pass it on to the next.](#)

INTRO Entrusted Campaign

Timeline of Vision development:

- Feb 2016 –experiencing considerable growth, in Fall we added a 3rd Sunday morning gathering.
- 2017 – We contracted architectural drawings and in the Fall hosted the **COMPELLED Campaign**.
- 2018 – We constructed the North Facility to add space for Community, students, children, & offices.
- 2019 – moved into North Facility. Immediately hit with a new challenge: **a church divided by space.**
- 2020-2021 – *Cvd hit. We added two new venues: MPR & the Garden, & Worship Room Upgrades.
- 2022 – focus on rebuilding Community.
- 2023 – Priority of CG for LPC.

CHALLENGES

1. New people who were among us. But they are not yet one of us. By late 2021 - attendance up 16%. In 2022 attendance grew >10%. In 2023 attendance grew >25%. Historically, coming out of Covid has recorded LifePoint’s most explosive growth to date. LifePoint has never been focused on only drawing a large crowd, but leading every person to be a real Christ-follower.

2. Resource Stewardship for Maximum Gospel Impact In discussing growth and considering next steps, the Executive Counsel researched plans and costs for adding new worship space in the Spring. The Lord led us to focus on strengthening the church and positioning for a next step in the future. **“How do we steward our resources of people, money, and facility to maximize our gospel impact?”** was the question that focused our plans and vision for Entrusted.



3. Ministry Leadership to Equip and Lead the Mission We recognized that any next steps meant giving first priority to building our leadership core to ensure the congregation was healthy and strong, and prepared for whatever the Lord had next for us.

Three factors pressed upon the Executive Council in determining how to determine the purpose of a campaign:

1. The demand for more ministry space.
2. The need for greater ministry development and engagement.
3. Stewarding resources in today's economic climate to advance gospel mission.

Entrusted is a 2-yr campaign of **strengthening** LPC to guard the gospel by **deepening** our identity in more Jesus and reaching **farther** by faithful witness for greater impact in the world.

Four Priorities

1. Savor the work of God through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We aim to strengthen the unity of the church in the mission of Jesus Christ by sharing regular testimonies of God's work among us in all our ministries, and in laboring to see more baptisms over the next two years than ever before.

Anything that is worthy of us being unashamed about and even willing to share in suffering for is worth savoring! **We savor the gospel of Jesus Christ when we celebrate all God has done for us in our treasure!**

2. Strengthen the Body for gospel ministry.

Following the pattern of faithful words in the faith and love that are in Jesus Christ demands that we teach and train people in those words, the very essence of our heartbeat in disciplinmaking. We are focused on connecting every person and engaging them in the life together of the body. We are laboring to see every person to connect in Community Group, to serve in our discipleship ministries, and on a Servant Team.

3. Steward the Mission for resource maximization and missional development.

Stewardship has always been a high value for LifePoint Church, the way of life for every real Christ-follower. We are laboring for three specific stewardship goals in Entrusted; 1) to increase the number of people who regularly invest in LifePoint's mission through faithful stewardship, 2) to cultivate the spiritual gift of giving by helping more people identify and exercise this gift, and 3) to raise \$1M, above general tithes and offerings, over 24 months to eradicate current debt.

4. Send the gospel for greater gospel Impact.

Resourcing gospel advancement to go to the nations has always been a first priority for LifePoint. We are developing our largest Impact partnerships to expand our gospel work in new regions of the world. We are praying to identify our next ten people whom God is calling to full-time gospel ministry and/or longer-term service to the nations, and create a plan to equip them. We are fulfilling our church planting partnership commitments and identifying our next steps in church planting partnership. And, we are developing new strategies to engage our city and love our neighbor, with a particular interest in addressing poverty.

What God is able to do eternally He has now enabled us by Holy Spirit to do in the here and now. We guard the treasure God has given to us in the gospel because we are convinced that in the gospel, He is able to guard our lives given to Him. And the more deeply we are convinced of God's ableness the more compete will be our selflessness. **Entrusted is a 2-yr campaign of strengthening LPC to guard the gospel by deepening our identity in more Jesus and reaching farther by faithful witness for greater impact in the world.**

Where do we begin? We begin where we have always begun, in our first act of love, our first labor of mission, in prayer.



