

Theme: God calls the Church to train future leaders who are grounded in the grace of Christ so that they can guard the faith from error, make disciples in their own generation, and pass the faith on to future generations.

I. Intro – The Importance of Leadership

- A. The target - a 2nd Lt in Vietnam
- B. They specifically tried to kill radio operator, officers
- C. They knew this destroyed communication & leadership
- D. Without leadership any group has no future!
- E. One key aspect of our vision - train new leaders
- F. Is this biblical? Why is it important? Is it worth the cost?

II. The Centrality of the Gospel of Grace

- A. The Church must be grounded in grace of Christ
 - 1. “Be strong in the grace that is in Christ” (v1)
 - 2. The Gospel of the grace of God in Christ is our life
 - a. We are justified by grace - not works, not law
 - b. We are sanctified by grace - not works, not law
 - 3. The Gospel of the Grace of God in Christ is our message
 - a. We do not preach success, advice, etc - but Christ!
 - b. We do not promote a product - we preach Christ
 - c. We do not promote moralism - we preach grace
- B. This is central to training future leaders
 - 1. The Church needs leaders who understand this
 - 2. The Church needs leaders who live this

- 3. The Church needs leaders who will proclaim this
- C. Gospel of God’s grace in Christ is always under attack
 - 1. It goes against our fallen nature
 - 2. People are always trying to improve or replace it
 - 3. If this is lost - all is lost!
 - 4. Church’s mission is to guard, spread the Gospel
 - 5. Church must pass the Gospel unchanged to next generation

III. The Call To Train New Leaders

- A. Paul himself has been involved in training leaders
 - 1. “My son” - spiritually, not literally (v1)
 - 2. I taught you and others - witnesses (v2)
 - 3. This was not done in secret - Gospel is open
- B. The chain of ITThese leaders must train others
 - 1. Timothy must train others (v2)
 - a. It must not die with Timothy!
 - b. These men must show themselves reliable
 - 2. These men in turn must teach others (v2)
 - a. Leaders are called to teach others
 - b. Must be trained - then qualified to train others
 - c. Leaders have a responsibility to train new leaders

IV. The Importance of Training New Leaders

- A. Leaders guard the deposit of the faith
 1. Guard what was entrusted (1 Tim 6:20-21)
 2. Guard the good deposit entrusted to you (2 Tim 1:14)
 3. All believers must strive to guard the deposit
 4. But it is the special responsibility of leaders
 5. Real need today - many distorting the faith
 6. Many leaders not trained, don't know the faith themselves
- B. Leaders make disciples in their own generation
 1. Entrust to reliable men, qualified to teach (v2)
 2. Called to make disciples, not consumers (Mat 28:19-20)
 3. Leaders equip saints for ministry, maturity (Eph 4:11-13)
 4. But must also help train new leaders (v2)
- C. Leaders pass the faith on to the next generation
 1. Paul, Timothy, others - generations (vv1,2)
 2. Paul is aware of his impending death (2 Tim 4:6-7)
 3. Paul will die; the faith must not
 4. Biblical call for a multi-generational perspective
 - a. Psalm 78:1-7 - multiple generations in view
 - b. I have taught on this before - see web site
 5. We must always look to the future - children & leaders

V. Applying the Word

- A. Do we see the importance of guarding the deposit of faith?
 1. This is a biblical mandate - and for good reason
 2. Many in America today distort the Gospel terribly
 - a. Gospel as a means to the American dream
 - b. Gospel replaced by moralism/legalism
 3. We need the Gospel of grace of God in Christ taught!
 4. Do you understand this Gospel? Believe it?
 5. Do we see our responsibility to guard it for now & future?
- B. Do we see the importance of training leaders - for now & future?
 1. This costs time, money, effort
 2. This means others lead, teach - not just our favorite
 3. But there is no other option! Otherwise faith dies!
 4. Seminary is critical - but insufficient
 - a. It provides technical training we can't
 - b. It can not mentor and give experience like we can
 - c. Training leaders require both!
 5. Are we willing to look beyond - and help God's Church?

Training Future Leaders

2 Timothy 2:1-2
Psalm 78:1-7
February 27, 2011
Prayer
Psalm 128:5-6

Timothy, **guard what has been entrusted to your care**. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, 21 which **some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith**. Grace be with you.

1 Timothy 6:20–21

Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

2 Timothy 1:14

Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you**. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19–20

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 **to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up** 13 **until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ**.

Ephesians 4:11-13

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the **time has come for my departure**. 7 I have fought the good fight, **I have finished the race**, I have kept the faith.

2 Timothy 4:6-7

O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. 2 I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old— 3 **what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us**. 4 **We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done**. 5 He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, **which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children**, 6 **so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children**. 7 **Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands**.

Psalm 78:1-7