



Mentoring Hearts, Changing Lives

—AN ATHLETE STUDY OF 2ND TIMOTHY

WEEK 4



THE DEPOSIT

Swimmer, Michael Phelps, has won 22 Olympic medals, 18 of them gold, more than double any modern Olympian. Phelps stands 6'4" with a 6'7" wingspan—unusually long for his height. Adding to this, his long torso belongs to a man of 6'8" while his legs a man of 6'. Finally, his double-jointed ankles turn his size 14 feet into virtual flippers. His wingspan and torso give him incredible pull, and his short stout legs whip like a fish. It's like God designed Phelps to swim.

God *deposited* an incredible gift to Phelps. Now, imagine if he wanted to be a sprinter. He's an incredible athlete and could beat most of us in a foot race. However, he'd never be an 18-time gold medal winning Olympian.

You may or may not have been entrusted with brains, physical prowess, supermodel looks, etc. However, you've been *deposited* something far more valuable—an invitation into God's family and all the benefits therein.

2 TIMOTHY 1:8–18

⁸ Therefore 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, ⁹ who 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, ¹⁰ and 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, ¹¹ for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, ¹² which 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. ¹³ Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

¹⁵ You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. ¹⁶ May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, ¹⁷ but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me— ¹⁸ may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!—and you will know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

"Am I more than just the sum of every high and every low?... Taking all I have, and now I'm laying it at your feet. You have every failure, God, you have every victory."

What God designed us to be is more important than what God designed us to do. Who God says we are doesn't change based on external circumstances. We are more than our highs and lows, more than failures and victories. Scan the QR code to remind yourself of what God says of you.



DISCUSSION

If you could pick one fictional character to hang out with for a day, who would it be and why?

1. List the specific work of Christ related to the Gospel. (9-10)

2. What 2 truths kept Paul from shame? (12)

3. What 2 responses did Paul urge Timothy to practice? (13–14)

4. What does "a holy calling" mean? (9)

5. When we place our faith in Christ, what do we entrust to God and what does God entrust to us? (12, 14)

6. What does it look like in your own life to honor the investment others have made in you and what does it look like to pass it on?

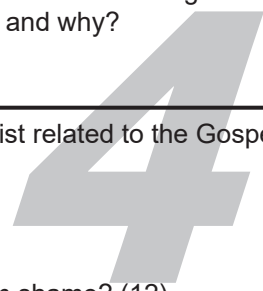
Do you struggle to see yourself as God sees you? Do you struggle to understand how to make your life matter? If you need some encouragement, talk to your Coach today!

ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION





STUDY NOTES

"GUARD THIS WITH YOUR LIFE DUDE"

Probably the most underrated animated movie of all time is *A Goofy Movie*. Early in the movie, Goofy's son, Max, interrupts a school assembly to put on a concert to impress a girl. Max paid for the services of the AV guy with cheese whiz spray. When caught, the boys land themselves in the principal's office. After the classic "*leaning tower of chees-a*," it was Bobby's turn to face the principal.

Bobby leaned over handing Max the cheese spray saying, "Guard this with your life, dude." (Scan the QR code to watch the scene). Humorously, that cheese spray was Bobby's most treasured possession. He entrusted Max with an incredible responsibility expecting that it would be returned in full.



In his first letter to Timothy, Paul urged, "*O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you*" (1 Timothy 6:20). Today's passage offers the same advice. The turbulence of Paul's imprisonment, abandonment, and personal suffering caused Timothy doubt and fear. However, Paul wanted to remind Timothy that Paul had entrusted him to God and God has entrusted Timothy with so much.

MENTORING HEARTS REQUIRES HEAVENLY PURPOSE

Paul addressed Timothy's concern saying, "*do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord* for which Paul became a *prisoner*." As we see in verse 15, many *in Asia turned away* from Paul already. This included two men that Timothy must have known. *Phygelus and Hermogenes*, which likely caused special heartache.

Instead of being discouraged, the aged mentor asked Timothy to *share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God*. Buried in the Gospel is hope—not only for the struggles of this life, but in the one to come. Paul reminded Timothy what Christ did for us through the Gospel: 1. Christ *saved us*. 2. *Called us*. 3. He didn't do this *because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace*. 4. Christ's suffering, nor Paul's, nor ours, was or is a surprise to God but is a part of the "holy calling," *which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began*. 5. Christ *manifested* this plan as *our Savior...who abolished death and brought life and immortality*.

Paul was *appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher*. Paul's mission caused him suffering, but only a fraction of what Christ suffered. There is no shame in suffering for Christ as Christ suffered. And, in light of our eternal hope, no suffering we endure will compare to the reward awaiting us (Romans

8:18). This is what gives Paul such confidence to say, "*I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed.*"

As stated in the introduction, Paul reminded Timothy in his previous letter of what had been "entrusted" to him. Using this same word, Paul stated he is "*convinced that [God] is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day*" (NIV). This study most commonly uses the ESV, which translates this phrase referring to what God has entrusted to Paul. However, the NIV translation refers to what Paul has entrusted to God. The original language is slightly ambiguous here, but we prefer the NIV rendering. For example, Paul is sitting in prison waiting to die. Death could come at any moment. He's sure of his salvation, but he's trusting God that his investments will continue to multiply. He's entrusting the mission of his life, his converts, his church plants, and his disciples to the Lord. He's not asking if it was all worth it—he's proclaiming that he's made the deposit and God will hold the deposit safe *until that day*.

HEAVENLY PURPOSE MOTIVATES EARTHLY FAITHFULNESS

Paul has "entrusted" Timothy to God. Now, Paul issues two commands: 1. *Follow the pattern*. 2. *Guard the good deposit*.

Paul had given Timothy *sound words* by which to live. Back in Zero Week, we looked at the connection between truth and grace. That's what Paul reminds Timothy about here—words spoken *in faith and love*. God's truth alone can create resistance. So, we must deliver that truth with faith (we truly *believe* what we are saying) and love (we truly *care* about those hearing it).

Secondly, God gives believers *the Holy Spirit who dwells within us* as a "guarantee" or "deposit" (see 2 Corinthians 5:5). This is a banking term meaning that the one who gave it will one day return to collect it. It's in the power offered by the Holy Spirit that Paul commands Timothy, "Guard this with your life, dude."

If you have to wonder what's being deposited in you, consider that as an organization we write and produce these studies paid for by hundreds of people donating their resources. Then, your Coach works long days teaching, coaching, dealing with administrative duties, and much more. But, in that craziness, takes time to lead *this* study. Donors give, writers write, Coaches coach, all as a deposit (something entrusted) in *you*. But our hope and prayer is that this investment doesn't *stop* with you. We want our investment to multiply.

We're hoping that you disciple others, teaching them what you've learned, who then go on to disciple others—like a family tree of disciples. We're making a deposit in you—guard it!