

Guard The Deposit Entrusted To You

July/August 2024

The Fourth of July comes and you celebrate freedoms and rights God has established for you in our country which are exercised because of the work of others who came before you. You dress up in red, white, and blue, fly a flag of the same colors on the front of your house and tell your children and grandchildren about those who have died and make those colors mean something. There's rightfully talk of liberty, justice, and the instilling of the sense of awe of what has been handed down to you.

Parades happen and everyone stands up and claps when the veterans roll by. Honor is given and the young are encouraged that to serve as those others did is a virtuous thing - to guard what is good. We recognize that the stakes are high to keep what we have in our country and to let things decay because of laziness or apathy is to let the proverb come to pass upon ourselves, "The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing" (Proverbs 20:4).

The Fourth of July comes and you want to protect the good things passed down and you want the next generation to take up the mantle to steer our country, which was brought about by the providence of God, in a way that is pleasing and honors the heritage you have inherited, which is more than colorful bunting on the front porch or a bumper sticker on your pick-up, but a duty you see to be handed over to the next generation. This is good.

If we think this way and act this way on the Fourth of July (again, a great thing that we need to keep doing), we should even more so, concerning the Christian faith, heed the words of the apostle Paul to Timothy, "Guard the deposit entrusted to you" (1 Timothy 6:20). The deposit entrusted to Timothy was not the sacrifice of many, but of one Man, our Lord Jesus and the blessings He seeks to give to His Christians. This also has to be guarded, spoken of, taught, relished in, encouraged among ourselves and the younger generation. The zeal for the heritage of our Lord should outweigh any other heritage we have received. If we think our country is being eroded to stray from the foundation and principles upon which it was built and are compelled to rehearse its underpinnings at our celebrations, know that St. Paul understood that erosion can happen to the Christian faith and therefore exhorts Timothy to *guard the deposit*. This isn't presented to Timothy as just an option because St. Paul knows what's at stake. It's also not an option for us; it our duty. As much as it is our duty to stand up for what's right according to God in our country, it is our duty to guard the deposit of faith found in Christ and His Word - through prayer, reading the Bible, examining ourselves, discipline, and leading the younger or those who haven't heard of Jesus.



So we adorn ourselves with His true Word. We parade into the Church to honor the One who gave fully of Himself and receive His gifts. We stand at the proclamation of His Gospel. We encourage the young to take notice of what our Lord Jesus has handed over to us by faith that it would become a part of who they are. We dress up and fly the flag of courage and humility to be counted as one of Jesus' blood bought citizens of heaven.

Honor that which is good, right, and true, and most of all *guard the deposit* and give thanks to God "who richly provides us with everything to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17).

In Christ,
Pastor Suggitt



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LIFE QUOTE

We live in the presence of evil. Some of it is twisted to sound good. We hear of 'the compassionate relief of suffering' or 'death with dignity' or 'right to health care' or 'simple medical procedure.' You know many more. God calls us to confront these with His truth, to reveal the evil behind them. God calls us to educate fellow Christians in His truth so they do not end up 'possessed' by this way of thinking. God calls us to call evil what it is, but also to share the truth of what God has done about evil. For that we fix our gaze upon Jesus (Hebrews 12:2).

He speaks to us through His Word of truth and grace.

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