



Life Group Study Notes

“The Power of the Seed: Guarding the Seed”

Sr. Ps. James Lowe - November 18, 2018

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- Are you more of a planner or a spontaneous person?
- What’s the biggest event you’ve ever planned?
- What’s one of the best parties you’ve ever attended? Why was it so good?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

2 Timothy 1:14 ESV *By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.*

We are called and commanded to guard or protect the deposit of the Gospel concerning Jesus Christ that has been deposited into our hearts. The Gospel is not merely truthful information for our minds, but is truth concerning God that calls for the commitment of our lives to him from our hearts. We must guard the truths of the Gospel lest our hearts wane in their passion and commitment to God.

How can we guard and protect the Gospel in our hearts?

1 Peter 1:13-21 ESV *Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.*

1. To guard the Gospel in our hearts we must be sober-minded and set our minds fully on the hope of Christ’s return when he will raise the dead, reward the righteous, and renew the earth.

2. To guard the Gospel in our hearts we must be holy or set apart to God in our conduct. We must deny our sinful passions and desires, from greed to envy to anger to lust. With the help of the Holy Spirit and through the power of God's word we can put to death our sinful impulses and instead do what pleases God.

1 Peter 1:22-25 ESV *Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.*

3. To guard the Gospel in our hearts we must love our spiritual brothers and sisters from a pure heart. We are to love them just as God has loved us, forgiving us all of our sins. We are to love them not for what they can do for us, but for the fact that they too are loved by God and are made in his image.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- Have you ever experienced a serious battle of faith regarding your confidence in the Gospel?
- Which of the three ways to guard the Gospel in our hearts are you strongest in?
- Which of the three ways to guard the Gospel in our hearts are you weakest in? How can you strengthen yourself in this area?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for revealing the truth to you concerning Jesus Christ.
- Ask God to help you guard the Gospel in your heart.
- Ask God to strengthen you in setting your hope on the return of Jesus, in being set apart to God in your conduct, and in loving one another from a pure heart.