### 2 Timothy 1:13-18 KEEP YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Opening illustration about my lazy eye and the need for the correct perspective

The text I was given last week from the pulpit is 2 Timothy 1:13-18. So turn there in your Bibles. I will read starting in verse 6 of chapter 1 and go through verse 18. Stand with me for the reading of God's Word. Read 2 Timothy 2:6-18

Pray - ask for active listeners, for focus on the Word, for humble hearts, and for grace to speak truth through a sinner that would ripple through eternity.

### The Word Keeps Your Perspective (13)

Paul has just added some weight to his charge to Timothy in verse 12 making it clear that he is intending on passing the torch. You can imagine the deep friendship between the two that would cause Timothy to be very excited about receiving a letter from Paul, but early on the tone becomes very serious, and Timothy may be reading through tears at this point as he realizes Paul is really preparing to die, and to pass the torch on. With that heavy understanding Timothy continues to read..."Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus." You see, Paul had filled himself with God's Word, which is what spilled out when he was around Timothy. The Word of God shaped Paul's perspective. Paul's roots were the gospel, therefore the fruit of his mouth and actions were living and doing unashamed. Paul's character was not do as I say not as I do. How frustrating is it when someone in authority over you says do as I say, not as I do? RJ will be 3 in July. He is an incredible source of accountability. Now, what will RJ's view of Christianity be when he is 12 or 18 if her sees dad parent with a do as I say not as I do? Paul's own keeping in the Word, the faith and love of Jesus, secured his perspective and lifestyle which gave him leverage to challenge and influence Timothy. What is Paul's perspective that Timothy is to keep? Verse 8, it is to be unashamed of the gospel! Perspective just looks a lot nicer in the bulletin than unashamed of the gospel. For those of you active congregants who have read ahead in the outline, let me calm your worries now, perspective in this message is not referring to the subjective viewpoint of the individual, but rather the objective perspective of being unashamed of the gospel that Paul had that he is charging Timothy with. So what? What does this have to do with me today? Well you are here, at Cornerstone today. This event was planned before the ages began. Why are you here? Because God intends to use you. You are not a dead-end in God's plan to secure a people for Himself from among the nations, or in the building up of His church. But God is going to use those who are unashamed of the gospel to carry out His plan. Little things get us side-tracked so easily that wage war for our perspective. You know the light of the Sun can be blocked out by a dime? Even though a dime can fit into the Sun 415 decillion times, (41500000000000000000000000000000) it can cause us to lose sight. Be rooted in the Word to keep your perspective.

## 2. Guard Your Perspective (14)

When we hear the word guard, it naturally implies a struggle. If we are guarding something in a struggle, we want to dig our heals in, wrap around, don't let go, muster your strength, but what does Paul remind Timothy here in verse 14? Guarding your perspective is only possible because of the strength given you be the Holy Spirit. Staying unashamed of the gospel when the world is slamming you for it can bring more pressure than you can handle. And God puts you under more than you can handle sometimes to remind you of where the real strength comes from. The success of God's mission is upheld and has always been secured by His own strength. Now yes, God does use human cooperation to advance His cause, but even the good that we do was prepared in advance by God for us to do, see Ephesians 2:10. The good deposit entrusted to Timothy is the content of the Christian faith. Do you guard this like Frodo guarded the Ring secretly moving through Middle Earth trying to avoid the attention of most till he could rid himself of the Ring in the only place it could be destroyed? Or do you quard it by spreading it? Mrs. Zimmerman was my first piano teacher. She went through the grunt work of the flash cards with one note on them to the clapping out rhythms so I could understand why some notes were colored in and why they forgot to color the others. After a couple years with her where I could pluck out a couple simple tunes. Mr. Savers took over who established through 7-8 years a great amount of musical knowledge that gave me categories to interact with other musicians through college and in church to this day. I have not gone back the large book of scales, but I did use some of that theory to help first-year music students with their homework in college. I also picked up some stuff on guitar guys in the dorms who were doing. Things like smacking the guitar to get harmonics and finger-tapping that took me a minute to digest. The sharing of musical knowledge increased joy. Without the sharing of musical knowledge it would all die out. Same with the gospel! It's only one generation from dying out! But it's always been that way, and it's only growing because God is the one guarding it through those who keep their perspective. That fact that I am a sinner and it would be right for me to go to hell, and that Jesus took that punishment in my place on the cross, died and conquered death so I would not be crushed by it and offers his righteousness to me as a free gift is not something I should be able to keep bottled up anyways! Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine! Are you letting it shine? That's what these next few verses are about.

# 3. Your Rejecting This Perspective Harms the Body. (15)

Have you ever watched criminal minds? Often times the show opens with the crime being committed but the camera rarely reveals much about the identity of the criminal or location of the crime. The crime is reported and the same highly qualified team who is always called on get s to work with little evidence to piece together the full reality of the situation and

its implications. That's what we are doing with our characters here. First off, Paul is hurting in verse 15. He is experiencing some hurtful rejection. This is not like getting picked last for the basketball team rejection this is more than likely rejection from those who were close like family to Paul. Jesus says some pretty shocking things about what those who follow Him have to face. In Matthew 10 Jesus says, "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Jesus himself knew rejection. Spends three years with a guy who sells him out for some silver, then one of his inner friends denies knowing him three times, and how many disciples were at the cross? Jesus knows rejection, and Paul commands Timothy in verse 8 to share in His sufferings, which Paul himself is currently doing. So what do we know from verse 15 here? Asia does not refer to modern day Asia, except for maybe a way southwest portion of it that was a province of Rome which Ephesus was the capitol of. Paul had spent three years in Ephesus, and Timothy was currently serving at the church there. Phygelus and Hermogenes' rejection hurts because at one time they had a shared identity. There was a sense of belonging with each other probably because they served in the same church together, in the same local body of believers. But they lost their perspective. They did not guard their perspective or stay in the Word to keep it. They guit running Jesus strong. Their rejection hurt because of what they did share with Paul at one time. These people who we know very little about serve as a warning to you and I. You can be coasting in neutral and still be affected by momentum in from the past. Do not find your security in past times of keeping in the Word at the expense of presently guarding your perspective. Even a train or a battleship will eventually lose momentum. What did you do yesterday or what will you do tomorrow to guard and keep the perspective of being unashamed of the gospel?

If you reject this perspective, it harms the body. Don't let that be your impact on other believers. On the flip side,

# 4. Your Embracing This Perspective Fuels the Body (16-18).

Alright detectives, what do we know about Onesiphorus? His name means useful, or who brings profit, but there are three actions in his brief account. 1. He refreshes Paul. Just because you are not called to preach a sermon or sing a solo does not mean you do not have a ministry. Paul is clinging to the joy he received when another from the family of God simply refreshed him. Food, clothes, a pillow, even Paul needed others in the body. Second thing is that Onesiphorus was not ashamed. It seems as though most people did not want to associate with Paul because of his prisoner status and the risk that would involve, but Onesiphorus did not care. He kept his perspective. Those of you in middle school, high school, grab onto this. Do you hesitate to hang around someone because the popular kids are too good for them, so you want to appear too good for them as well? Be unashamed of the gospel and look at and love the world around you in the unashamed way Jesus did. Don't lose your perspective! Third thing Onesiphorus did, he searched earnestly. It's not like he could contact the local department of justice and they could search their database as to where Paul was located. He had to search earnestly for Paul. Are brothers and sisters in Christ worth acting in an earnest manner for? Are you keeping your perspective? Notice the play on words from 17-18, since Onesiphorus found Paul, then Paul wants him to find mercy on judgment day. I promise you, for every one of us the dime and the sun will be seen in honest proportions. Keep your perspective. Some commentators debate as to whether vs 18 indicates if Onesiphorus was dead or not. I don't see that debate as all that important, I mean, he is dead now, what is important is the impact he made because he kept and guarded the perspective of being unashamed. I want to conclude with a story some of you may know, of a man who kept this perspective and how God used it to shape me.

My sophomore year of high school my Grandpa was diagnosed with liver cancer. Papa J is what we called him. Now cancer was what my friends brought up during prayer requests or what other families had to deal with, not me, so I did not have a category for it. I remember he looked awful that year at Christmas as a result of being in the thick of the chemo treatments. He was happy to be with family, but soon he returned home to more treatments. Well then he moved up here, which gave me a chance to actually get to know him. Cornerstone became his church for a little while. The cancer was continuing to progress, but in my head, Papa J was noticeably happier, at least when he could get out of the hospital and be here, serving the body of Christ. I remember thinking you just want to get out of the hospital to be at church. At that point in my life I was looking into colleges, mainly for what job would get me the most money so I could be most comfortable, and here God puts this glaring example of a man whose circumstances not only could not shift his perspective, but made it shine even brighter. It was a real heart check for me as to whether I was keeping the perspective of Christ or not. Your embracing this perspective fuels the body and allows for your temporary life to make eternal impact for the glory of God! So as we move into taking Communion and you have a few moments to reflect and pray, ask God to reveal to you what is waging war for your perspective, and consider what opportunities you have to invest into eternity and how you are stewarding them.