

2Timothy 24-09-15a

Good morning. Welcome to the Sunday morning services at Grace and Truth Bible Church. This is the 15th of September, 2024.

Happy 94th birthday to my dad. We're continuing our study in 2 Timothy. We are in chapter one and we are looking at verse 13 through 16, 13 through 16 in 2 Timothy chapter one.

Wonderful lessons here for us. Let's take a moment to ask God's blessing on our fellowship and on our study and we'll begin. Father, we are so grateful that your grace covers us and blesses us in so many ways with provision, with opportunities, with challenges, with blessings, and we're held by your hands come what may.

And it is a wonderful comfort to have our hope with the Lord Jesus Christ returning to take us to himself and present us before your throne if we are counted worthy. We know that your word is the means by which we can enter into that number. And we pray this morning that as we look together at this passage, that the Holy Spirit will bless it to each heart, help us to see clearly what it calls us to do and how we can do it by your grace and your strength through your power for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We pray it in his name. Amen. Let's read our passage.

Timothy has received this letter from Paul. It has an introduction, which we have covered quite thoroughly. He is reminding Timothy that there is a challenge to not be ashamed.

And we tend to think of shame as embarrassment or retreat, but it really is discouragement or pulling back, not committing, not believing in our cause, not investing ourselves fully. And if I ask myself, am I ashamed? I can think about Paul saying in Romans 1.16, I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. It is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Why would Paul ever be ashamed of such a message? Why would he be reticent or embarrassed about that gospel? But when you think about his career and the challenges that he faced, remember that this is more than just some form of embarrassment. It is discouragement. It is opposition that would cause someone to quit or to rethink or to lose confidence.

And this loss of confidence and loss of motivation is at the heart of the idea of being ashamed. So Paul returns to this time and again, and he says in verse eight of our chapter, because God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind, therefore, do not be ashamed. Do not be ashamed of the testimony.

That's when anytime you see a therefore, you've got to look above and say, what is the therefore? And why does Paul say, do not be ashamed? I remind you to stir up the gift of

God. God has given you something. And in our passage this morning, he's going to talk about the indwelling Holy Spirit.

This is a part of that gift. None of our spiritual gifts work apart from the spirit. God has not given us a spirit of fear.

He has given us the Holy Spirit. And this confers upon us and grants to us power and love, Romans 5.5, and a sound mind, solid thinking, balanced, objective, forward-looking, forgetting those things which are behind. That's a sound mind.

Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord. Paul says in 116 of Romans, I am not ashamed. He says in verse 12, for this reason, I suffer these things.

Nevertheless, I am not ashamed. I am not ashamed. Why? I know whom I have believed.

And this is an appeal to the character of God. He doesn't say, I know what I have believed, or I know how I have believed. It's whom.

This is the character of God. And this is what we learn in studying the Old Testament, in reviewing the history of God's dealing with his people, both Old Testament and new, is the character of God, his compassion, his grace, his long-suffering, his mercy. And this is why the letters of Paul open, as do the letters of John and of Peter, with grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father, because he is the source.

And these characterize him, his grace, his mercy, and the peace of God that passes understanding. So we come now to the appointment. Each of us has an appointment.

It's easy to look at the apostles and say, well, Jesus chose them. God appointed them. He knew before they were born that they would have this mission.

And so Paul says in verse 12, well, in 11, I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of this gospel truth to the Gentiles is probably not there. It doesn't hurt. But Paul also ministers to the Jews.

And hence we have the book of Hebrews, which is manifestly Paul's letter, probably with Luke as his amanuensis, which explains the differences in Greek that you find there. But the thought is all Paul. And he excavates his knowledge gained at the feet of Gamaliel, his training as a Pharisee, his understanding, which was broad and deep of Old Testament truth in the book of Hebrews.

And he starts out at synagogues. Every time he goes to a town, he starts at the synagogue. You see this in Ephesus.

You see it in town after town in his career. He starts with the Jews. So he isn't just an apostle to the Greeks, although that's his primary function, but he is an apostle to anyone who will listen.

But he suffers. Nevertheless, he is not ashamed. And it is because of his confidence.

And this is the basis of our hope. God could make promises, but if we didn't trust him, what good are those promises? An untrustworthy person making promises is like a used car salesman saying, oh, this is going to be great for you. I'll warranty this car until it crosses the curb and gets out into the street.

It's a wonderful car. Promises, plighting your truth depends entirely on the character of the person making the promise. And this is why Paul claims the character of God.

And anytime we're challenged, if we think about the character of God, faithful is he who has promised. And of course, that's manifest in flesh in the incarnation of the Lord Jesus. So because of that, here's where we pick up this morning.

And we started this last time in verse 13, hold fast the pattern of sound words, hold fast the pattern of sound words. In the old King James, it says the form, the form of sound words. And why doesn't he just say, hold fast the sound words? What do you think? Why does he add this hold fast the form or the pattern? Well, this is the reason when I went to seminary, I chose to major in systematic theology, because if you just grab a word here or a word there, or you take a passage without not only its immediate context, but its theological context, how does it fit into the fabric of the revelation of God all the way from the index to the maps? We search the scriptures, we compare scripture with scripture, and it forms a tapestry, it forms a fabric.

And this prevents us from taking one thread and pulling on it too hard. We took some furniture for donation, and I spent about 10 minutes because one of the little four-footed creatures who dwells amongst us likes to jump up, especially after he's had a bath, and he turns upside down, and he starts doing a little turbulent thing with his feet. And occasionally a claw will grab a thread out of the upholstery, and it doesn't tear, it doesn't break, it just makes a loop.

You've had this happen with sweaters and such. And it's always fun to try to get that loop, and you don't want to cut it, you want to poke it through so that the loop hangs out on the inside. And trying to find something that is big enough to catch the yarn, but small enough to go through without making its own hole.

But we like to have a smooth fabric. That's what the form is. Think about this.

The pattern. God hasn't just given us little spotifications, little momentary aphorisms or pithy sayings. It's a form.

It's a fabric. And this is what keeps us from grabbing something and taking it to an extreme. I've said this countless times.

You remember, for every truth of the Word of God, there is at least one other truth that

balances it and prevents us from taking it to an extreme limit. So we look for that balance. We're claiming a promise, but many times those promises have conditions.

How would I expect God to fulfill a promise when I have not qualified myself for that promise? Jesus said, I and my Father will come to a believer and make our home with him. But there's a condition. You have to have his words and keep them.

It's an expression of love. If you love someone and they write you letters, you keep them. I've got shoe boxes of letters from various people that sent them to me when I was overseas or when I was stationed far away, and I treasure them.

They are the words that someone who loves me sent me, and I love them, and I keep those words. I treasure them. They're a memento, and they're an expression of our relationship.

And to treasure God's words, because this is how we know God. You don't know him from emotions. You don't know him from repetitive praise songs.

You don't know him from what people would like to think he is. It is his self-revelation. So what is it that we are to hold fast? When Paul tells Timothy this, he's not saying, well, the pastor's got to hold fast and everybody else can relax.

Just wait for the pastor to speak. Paul tells Timothy these truths and says, Timothy, you must pass this on to everyone in your church, everyone in the sound of your voice, and entrust them to faithful men who are going to continue to pass them on down through the community, through the generations, whatever it may be. So hold fast the form, the pattern of sound words.

Look at verse 14. That good thing which was committed to you, that good thing. He doesn't say those good words.

It's that thing. It is the pattern and the form. He's referring back to our verse, verse 13.

Turn a page to chapter 3 in this same book, chapter 3, verse 14. You must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of. Continue.

Hold fast. Be consistent. Be faithful.

Now, what does this look like in a normal day? It sounds great in church. It sounds good when we hear it taught or rehearsed, reviewed, or spoken. But what about tomorrow? Tomorrow's not a church day.

So how do you hold fast the pattern? How do you continue in the things that you have learned? Well, how do you continue in anything that you've learned? When you undertake a task, let's say you're going to mend a garment or repair something that's been spoiled. What do you appeal to? You can start with your own experience. Have I

done this before? This has happened to me in the past.

They've got fabric glue. They've got thread and needles and thimbles. You've got different ways that you can repair a thing.

You appeal to your own experience. If you don't have any experience, what do you do? You look around for somebody who has done it. The first few times I tore a button off, you can take it to your mom and she can sew it back on.

Or she can show you how to sew a button on. And there's a technique there. You don't just put the button in place and put the thread on as tight as you can.

If you notice your other buttons, they are sewn in a way that there's a little bit of give and a little bit of flop. If you sew it too tight, it's going to tear when you start buttoning that and putting in stress. And it's going to be hard to button because it's going to be tight against the fabric.

There's a method. There's some knowledge in just sewing on a button. So you go to somebody who's done it, who knows how to do it.

And they say, well, look, you notice how I'm crisscrossing these? It's got four holes, but you can go two and two. You can go crisscross. But how are you going to do it? And how much of the fabric behind are you going to grab? If you do it all in one place, you're just going to pull a hole in it.

So there's knowledge that you have in the past. There's knowledge you gain from others. You can also go to a reference.

Now we've got the internet. I'm sure there's 19 different YouTube videos on how to sew on buttons. For us, it is recourse to the Word of God.

What does the Word of God say about this situation or this issue? I'm under stress. I've got a shortfall. You can look at our prayer list, and there are challenges and needs.

And so we resort to our experience, prayerfully so, asking God to give us wisdom and bring to our minds what we know, that God will provide us with godly counsel, others in our fellowship who can provide insight or support or understanding. We can go directly to the Word of God or go to past teaching of the Word of God that might be in a book or might be in a past Bible class. But we hold fast, we pursue, we continue in these good things.

If you want to be good, if you want to produce good, if you want to have good accounted, you have to find it and soak in it and walk in it, continue in it and hold it fast. So this is a very practical exhortation. This isn't pie in the sky.

It's not abstract theology. This is where the spiritual rubber meets the road, and it's

important. So Paul stresses it.

I want you to notice in the Word of God, if you've got space to write a list, I'm going to give you a quick list. You don't have to look these up because I will read them to you. But I want you to see the number of times, just as a quick, short and representative list, this is by no means comprehensive.

Let me show you in the Word of God, in the pattern and the form of sound words, how many times the Word of God itself says hold fast. We've seen it here in 2 Timothy. It's in Proverbs 3.18. We saw this in our Proverbs study, to which we are soon going to return.

Proverbs 3.18, wisdom, she is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, not who hear her or who think about her once in a while. She, wisdom, is a tree of life. Wouldn't you love to have access to the tree of life in the Garden of Eden? Just walk right in, pluck the fruit, instant healing, instant health, instant youth, everything the snake oil people on TV want to promise you.

Take this supplement. It's fruits and vegetables in a pill. Just take it and you don't have to peel an apple and so on.

She's a tree of life to those who take hold of her. Happy are all who retain her, who hold on to her. It's not just catch and release.

It's seize, lay hold of. That's Proverbs 3.18. Same chapter, Proverbs 3.21. My son, these concepts, these exhortations, let them not depart from your eyes. Never stop observing them, looking at them, thinking about them.

My son, let them not depart from your eyes. Keep, hold fast to sound wisdom and discretion. Proverbs 4.4-8, 4-8.

Let your heart retain my words. Notice, retain. Keep my commandments and live.

Get wisdom, get understanding. Do not forget. Do not turn away from the words of my mouth.

Do not forsake her and she will preserve you. Love her and she will keep you. You keep her and she will keep you.

Isn't that the basis of a great marriage, any great relationship? You hold on to each other. A hug is ideally a two-way thing. Have you ever seen a little kid getting hugged by their grandma and they're just kind of, when is this going to be over? A great hug is two ways, right? Each holds on to the other.

Do not forsake her, she will preserve you. Love her and she will keep you. Wisdom is the principal thing.

Therefore, get wisdom. And in all you're getting, get understanding. Exalt her and she will promote you.

She will bring you honor when you embrace her. Embrace her. You see people in love, they hug each other.

One of them will say to the other, wouldn't it be great if this moment could go on forever? Well, with God's wisdom, with the form of sound words, we can literally keep that hug forever. We hold on to it and it holds on to us and preserves us. That's Proverbs 4.4-8. Verse 13 of that same chapter, take firm hold of instruction.

Proverbs 4.13, take firm hold of instruction. Do not let go. Keep her for she is your life.

Proverbs 23.23, buy the truth and do not sell it. Wisdom and instruction and understanding. Obtain it and never let go of it.

We have things that pass through our hands. Anytime you change your decor, you had some furniture, you got it one time, you pass it on. Not this.

Do not sell it, do not donate it, do not give it away, do not lose sight of it, don't put it in deep storage. Buy the truth and do not sell. Wisdom, instruction and understanding.

Philippians 1.27, let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ. Paul says, whether I come and see you or I'm absent, I want to hear of your affairs that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel. Notice how Paul here is emphasizing that we don't do this alone.

We do it individually certainly, but we can also do it as a fellowship, as a group. So these use are plural. Only let y'all's conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ so that whether I come and see you all or I'm absent, I may hear of y'all's affairs, your interactions, your mutual support, your prayers, your intercessions, the exchange of blessing through your spiritual gifts.

I want to hear that you stand fast in one spirit. Remember Paul talking about we don't have a spirit of fear, but power and love and a sound mind. We have.

Paul uses the plural there. He doesn't say you have a spirit, we have a spirit. God has given us a spirit.

And this works as a group, as a spiritual family. Many times our actual family and our spiritual family overlap, and that's a wonderful, gracious blessing. But anyone in our fellowship is a brother and sister in Christ.

Sometimes a mother and a father or a son and daughter in Christ. And we do this together. We stand fast.

One spirit, one mind, striving together. Notice this takes effort. It doesn't say relaxing together, being carried along on flowery beds of ease.

That's a hymn lyric by the way. Shall I be, you know, flowery beds of ease. That's a phrase you can't forget.

Striving together for the faith of the gospel. That's Philippians 1.27. First Thessalonians 5.21. Test all things. Evaluate them.

Sample them. Put them on the scale and weigh them. Assay, assess all things.

Hold fast. Very same word we have here. Hold fast to what is good.

We saw this in 1st Timothy 1.10. You've got any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine. If it's contrary, push that away. Let that go.

Separate from that. Titus 1.9. Hold fast the faithful word as you have been taught. This is the qualification for an elder.

He is holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught. The faithful word is taught. And we have to be taught.

We have to learn it. We're not born with it. We can't always access it directly ourselves.

So God has raised up teachers. We have the apostles who are, Paul says, I am a preacher, a teacher, and an apostle. Holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught that he may be able by sound doctrine.

Doctrine is the form of sound words. It is the practice both to exhort and convict those who contradict. There is a lot of contradiction in the world today.

And some of it is quite subtle. Some of it is a wolf in sheep's clothing. It slips under the security, flies under the radar.

You've got to exhort and convict. You have to know the truth to not be deceived. Hebrews 3.6. Christ as a son over his own house, whose house we are, do you want to be? We're going to be talking about household this morning.

This is household. Oikos. Christ is a son over his own house.

Do you want to be in that house or not? You say, well, of course. Well, there is a condition. Not all believers are in the house of the son of Christ.

What is the condition? Hebrews 3.6. Christ as a son over his own house, whose house we are, if. What do you think the condition is? What is the condition of being in the house of the Lord Jesus? Whose house we are if, what would you guess? If we hold fast. How important is it to hold fast? You're not in Jesus' house.

You're going to be on the outside knocking on the door. Sorry, never knew you. Depart from me, worker of iniquity.

And the little window will shut. Whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of our hope firm to the end. We don't flag.

We don't fail. We don't fade. We don't stumble.

We don't give up. We don't give out. We don't give in.

I love those directional words, don't you? You can turn up. You can turn out. You can turn in.

You can give up. You can give out. You can give in.

If we hold fast confidence, this is the form of sound words, that pattern, that fabric that we observe throughout scripture gives us confidence. This is not a human production. This isn't a bunch of Jewish fables and wishful thinking as so much of what humanity produces is.

We hold fast confidence and rejoicing of our hope. Our hope fuels our joy. God, the Holy Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit is joy.

Why? Fruit of the Spirit is peace. Why? Because we have hope that transcends the moment. We have something that gives us perspective beyond the immediate challenge.

Hebrews 4.14, seeing then that we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God. Notice how he hammers on the sonship of the Lord Jesus. And we are sons.

We are children of God. Seeing then, paying attention to, remembering, focusing on our great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us do what? Hold fast. You look at the Lord Jesus.

You see where he was. You see where he now is. He has passed through the heavens.

Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 4.14 of Hebrews. Hebrews 10.23, let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering.

Why? Character of God. He who promised is faithful. I know whom I have believed.

He's faithful. So let us hold fast. And notice this is plural pronouns again.

People want to talk about pronouns. When you come to the Word of God, watch for the singular pronouns and watch for the plural pronouns because they matter. Let us.

We can mutually support and encourage each other. Let us all. Let us together.

Let us as a household of faith hold fast the confession of hope without wavering. For he who promised is faithful. You can count on him.

Jude 3. It's only got one chapter. You can say one, three, if you're typing it into a computer. But the third verse of Jude, beloved, I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation.

What kind of pronouns? I was diligent to write to you all concerning our common salvation. I found it necessary to write you, exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith, which was once for all delivered to the saints. You all have to stand for it, have to stick to it, have to continue in it and hold it fast.

Revelation 2.25, letters to the seven churches, 2.25. Hold fast what you have until I come. This is the Lord Jesus, words of Christ in red. Hold fast what you have, you all have until I come.

Revelation 3.3. Remember therefore how you have received and heard. This is the Lord Jesus speaking to churches in this age. Remember how you have received and heard.

Hold fast and repent. If you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. Revelation 3.11. Behold, I come quickly.

Hold fast what you have, so that no one may take your crown. Think about that. Hold fast what you have, because when I come, right now you have a crown.

You have earned a crown. Your faith has qualified you for a crown. But think about the opposite of this.

If you do not hold fast what you have, someone will take your crown. You can lose rewards that have been assigned, that you've qualified for. You can disqualify yourself for previously earned rewards.

It's a sobering thought and it is put in scripture for a reason. Don't think that you can ride momentum of the past and fade now and be apathetic and indifferent now. Jesus says, think about my coming.

And quickly means suddenly, if you do the word study. I will come suddenly. I'm going to come in an hour you do not expect.

Your heart will stop and you didn't see it coming. You didn't know this was the last day and the last hour and the last few moments of your life. You were here.

Now you're not. Guess what? The Lord Jesus has come suddenly because at the moment you leave this life, you are going to be in the presence of the Lord Jesus for good or for ill, for blessing or for judgment. And we don't lose our eternal life, but you can certainly lose your crown.

Hold fast what you have. Whatsoever things are good, pure, noble, lovely of good report. Think on these things, make sure you focus and hold fast to the good and don't get sucked in by negative thinking.

Hold fast what you have that no one may take your crown. Jesus isn't pretending here. There are those who began well, like the Galatians.

You were running well. Who hindered you? Now you've fallen from grace. You're an enemy of the cross.

Oh my gosh, how does that happen? You would think, well, I'm heading on the upward way. New heights I'm gaining every day. And you know, perseverance of the saints.

I'm just getting better and better, you know, in every way. Not so. We have to hold fast.

We have to concentrate and pay attention both individually and collectively that no one takes our crown on that day of the sudden coming of the Lord. So the form of sound words, you find this again back in Proverbs, when wisdom says, counsel is mine, sound wisdom, I am understanding, I have strength. When we feel our strength failing, when we're weakening, when we're fading, it was a great life as long as we don't weaken, but we're starting to weaken.

How do you not weaken? Well, cursed is the man who trusts in man, we've memorized this together, who makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord, because our strength is in the Lord. You're going to be like a shrub in the desert. Proverbs 8, 14, counsel is mine and sound wisdom.

I understanding have strength. The strength is in God's word. The power of God comes into the life of the believer through the spirit of God and the word of God.

And Paul is talking about both of those. When we feel our strength failing, we need to remember that it is not by might nor by power, but by my spirit saith the Lord. Go to the Lord in prayer.

Every time we open our spiritual lips to pray, God, the Holy Spirit is present because the prayers don't go anywhere without the Holy Spirit. And we pray what we know. We pray our hope.

We pray the promises. We pray what God has spoken. And just in the act of prayer, knowing the spirit is present, knowing whom we have believed, holding fast the form of sound words, the power of God flows into our soul and gives us love and joy and peace and patience and gentleness and goodness and faith, humility and self-control.

What more do you need to get through a challenge than the fruit of the spirit? But if we forget our resources, if we forget our heritage, this is like sitting there being hungry and

you've got a fully stocked refrigerator. You've got stuff in the freezer. You've got a microwave.

You've got an oven. You've got a skillet. You've got bread.

You've got sandwich materials. It's all right there in the cupboard and in the fridge. And you sit there at the table and you say, why am I so hungry? I'm going to lose.

I just don't feel like I can. Your larder is stocked. Go get the food, get the power, restock.

This is what Paul is exhorting Timothy to personally understand and then to pass on to others. And it is useful and important for every single one of us. Guess what? We are here to be tested.

If God didn't need to test us, you'd believe in the Lord Jesus and you'd disappear. People would just pop out of existence like bubbles and go to glory. Pop out of earthly existence.

If all it was, was believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. Okay. I claim him as my savior.

They're gone. Why stay here in a fallen world with a fallen nature, with opposition from the world, the flesh and the devil. God has a purpose in our testing.

And this life is a screening process. That's what this life is. It's a screening.

We watch a program that's about an elite military unit and they lost a guy. And so they had to evaluate new recruits. If you like movies and you watch the first men in black and Will Smith comes in at the invitation of a guy and there's a whole room full of elite military guys in uniform and they're, yes, sir.

And they're, they're, you know, all squared away. And they're, they're the cream of the crop of the, of the seals or the Marines or, or the army or whoever else. And Will Smith comes in and he's kind of a free spirit, shall you say, but they put them in a room and they, they give them a paper form to fill out.

Do you remember this scene? And they're sitting in these egg-shaped chairs and they're trying to get the paper on their knee and their pencils are poking through the paper. And there's a table at the far side of the room. And all of these military guys are just, you know, trying every which way and they can't write.

And Will Smith looks around and he says, well, this is ridiculous. And he goes and grabs this big heavy metal table and it scrapes and screeches all the way across the floor and pulls it up and puts his paper on it and starts filling out. And he looks up at the other guys and he says, y'all want some of this? And it's a screening.

They purposely gave them no tables. They purposely gave them an egg-shaped chair.

They want to see who can, who can think, who can solve a problem.

It's a screening. This elite military unit program, when they had to replace a guy that got killed in action, they set up a scenario where he thought that he had done wrong. He thought that he had put a civilian in the hospital who later died.

And it was all a put-up job. They wanted to see how do you respond when you think everything, you know, are you going to crack? They brought in an outside government agency and they said, you know, we think you're a part of a secret military thing. And the only way you're going to save yourself from prison is to tell us about this organization.

Well, he held up and he didn't crack and he stuck with his cover and he thought he was going to prison. And then they put him in shackles and they were going to put them all in a van. When they opened up the door of the van, there's the men of the unit and they're shaking his hand and saying, you passed.

That's what this life is. It is a screening. If we get caught up in the test and we try to for self-preservation, operating on our own strength, we're going to fail.

We are here so that God can see who it is that loves him. The one who has my words and keeps them. The one who holds fast the pattern of sound words.

He, it is that loves me. I and my father will come to him and make our home with him. But you can't get distracted.

You can't be deceived. You can't get fooled into thinking that it's all about success and happiness in this life. It is recognizing that God is looking for those who really love him and who will demonstrate it when the going gets tough.

We either are or we aren't. And as Joshua said to Israel, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Choose you this day whom you will serve.

Who are you going to hold fast to? You choose. This is why we have free will. And God is looking for those who will use their free will to avail themselves of his power, his grace, his resources, his wisdom, and hold fast.

It is a system of thinking. It applies in every circumstance, both good and bad, in the highs and in the lows. The old gospel song that says God is the God that's the God on the mountain is also the God in the valley.

We just have to remember it and hold fast. That's what Paul's exhortation is to Timothy here in 2 Timothy chapter 1 verse 13. We're going to pause here and take our break.

When we come back, we're going to move forward and we're going to learn something about the house of Onesiphorus. Onesiphorus. We'll see that when we come back.