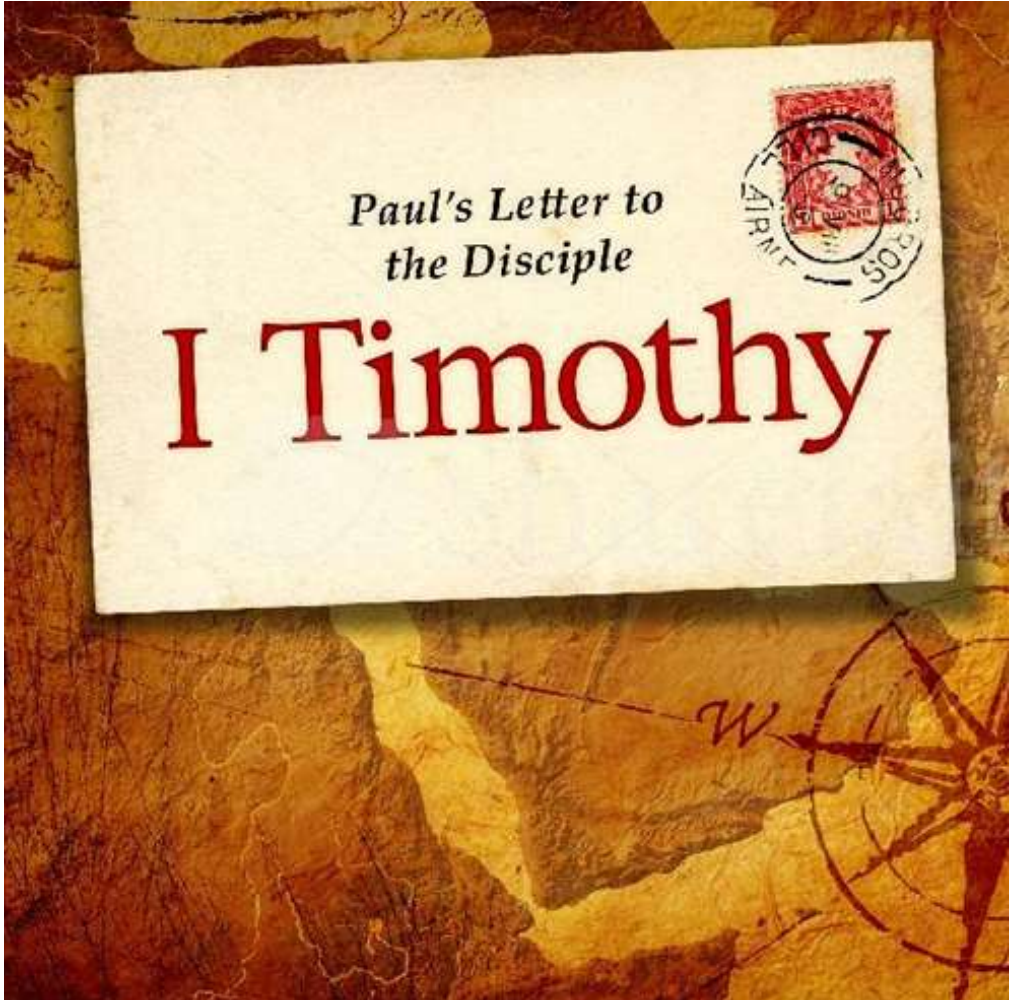
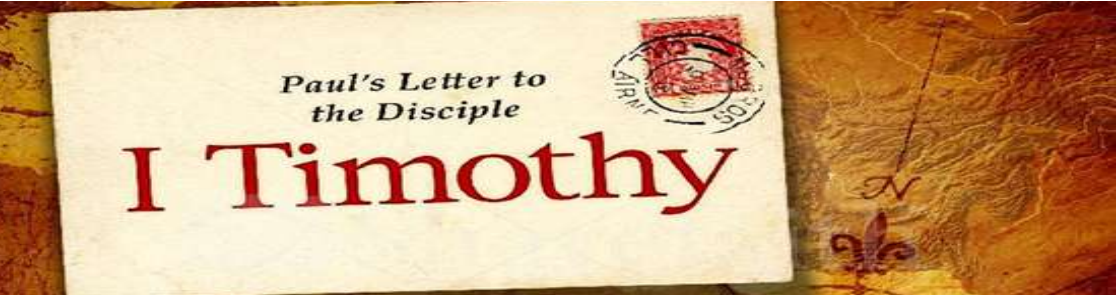


Let's Worship God

30th April - 5th May 2018

1 Timothy





Paul's Letter to
the Disciple

I Timothy

Monday - 1 Timothy 1:18-19 - Good Warfare

Paul charges Timothy to "wage the good warfare." What is this war he tells Timothy to fight? The surrounding Scriptures tell us it is not a war fought with earthly weapons. It is a warfare that involves "holding faith and a good conscience," and one that God revealed Timothy was equipped and gifted to wage. It is the warfare of proclaiming the Gospel that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. Paul calls this "warfare" because the world, being fallen and sinful, will hate God's message of salvation in Christ. Moreover, there will even be those within the visible Church, people who profess faith in Christ, who will nevertheless reject the authority of God's Word. Thus, the proclamation of the Gospel and of every doctrine consistent with it, will often be a struggle.

If you are faithful to proclaim God's Truth, you will face opposition from the world - even from others called "Christians." (Be open to recognizing that you could be wrong. Be willing to be corrected by God's Word, but do not be surprised when the plain teaching of Scripture is opposed even by Christians. Some are misguided and some are false converts). As long as there is sin in the world, the proclamation of the Gospel will be a struggle, because the fallen world is in conflict with its Creator. Be ready to wage the good warfare.

Questions

1. What is the "good warfare" Paul charges Timothy to wage?
2. Why is it called "warfare"?
3. Is this a war you need to be ready to fight?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we all be equipped to wage the good warfare.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For there is one God, and there is one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus. I Timothy 2:5

Praise: Psalm 144:1-6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Paul's Letter to
the Disciple

I Timothy



Tuesday - 1 Timothy 1:18-20 - Church Discipline

We noted yesterday that faithful proclamation of the Gospel will be opposed - sometimes even by some who are called "Christians." Thus, proclaiming the Truth is often a struggle or warfare. In verse 19, Paul reminds Timothy that he must be "holding faith and a good conscience." That is, in order to wage the good warfare, Timothy must hold fast to the Truth of God's Word and obey it. By contrast, some have rejected the Truth of the Bible and have "made a shipwreck of their faith." In other words, one's conscience is like a rudder that steers a ship. Informed by God's Word, the Christian's conscience can steer him through the challenges of life. His faith is deepened as he grows in his knowledge of God, conforms more and more to the LORD's revealed will and endures many hardships. If one rejects the authority of God's Word, the rudder of his conscience is warped, steering him in the wrong way. Thus, his life of faith becomes a shipwreck. Two men who made such a shipwreck of their faith were Hymenaeus and Alexander.

Because this kind of thing happens, church discipline is necessary. Indeed, discipline is part of waging the good warfare. (For a detailed explanation of the Biblical process of Church discipline, see Matthew 18:15-20). Paul has handed these men "over to Satan" - that is, he has cast them out of the church, treating them as if they have never had saving faith, because of their continued lack of repentance. However, it is important to note that this was not simply to get rid of them, but "that they might learn not to blaspheme." The goal of church discipline always must be the repentance and restoration of the erring brother or sister.

Questions

1. Why are some said to have "made shipwreck of their faith"?
2. What must occur when people in the Church reject the authority of God's Word?
3. What is the goal of church discipline?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that discipline will be rightly administered in the Church.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For there is one God, and there is one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus. I Timothy 2:5

Praise: Psalm 22:16-20 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Paul's Letter to
the Disciple

I Timothy



Wednesday - 1 Timothy 2:1-7 - One Mediator

Verse 5 of today's reading begins with the word "For." When used (as it is here) as a conjunction, the word "for" indicates that what the writer has just said is true because what he is about to say is true. In this case, verses 1-4 are true because verses 5 and 6 are true. Therefore, we'll consider verses 5-6, today, before dealing with the rest of this passage tomorrow.

First, Paul says there is one God. This is revealed throughout Scripture - there is only one God; all other gods are false. Second, there is one Mediator between God and men. This might be better translated, "For God is also the one Mediator between God and mankind." In other words, God, Himself, is the only Mediator (the only go-between) between God and human beings. Third, that Mediator who is God, Himself, is also a man (literally, "human being"). So, the one Mediator between God and mankind is both divine and human. Lastly, this God-Man is Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all. Thus, we have the most profound of teachings: God, Himself became human so that He could mediate between mankind and Himself. There is no other possible Mediator between God and mankind, because no one else is both God and human. Only the God-Man Jesus Christ can reconcile sinners to our Holy Creator.

Many people are happy to accept that Jesus Christ may be one of many ways to God, but this is not what God tells us. It is vain and foolish to think that there could be anyone else who could properly mediate between God and mankind, for there is no one else who is both God and Man. God has graciously come to us in the Person of Jesus Christ. Let us gladly accept this free gift of Himself (and accept that He knows how many ways he has made between Himself and humankind). For One God is also the only Mediator between God and mankind - the Man Christ Jesus.

Questions

1. How many mediators between God and mankind are there?
2. Who is the only Mediator between God and mankind?
3. Why is He the only possible mediator?

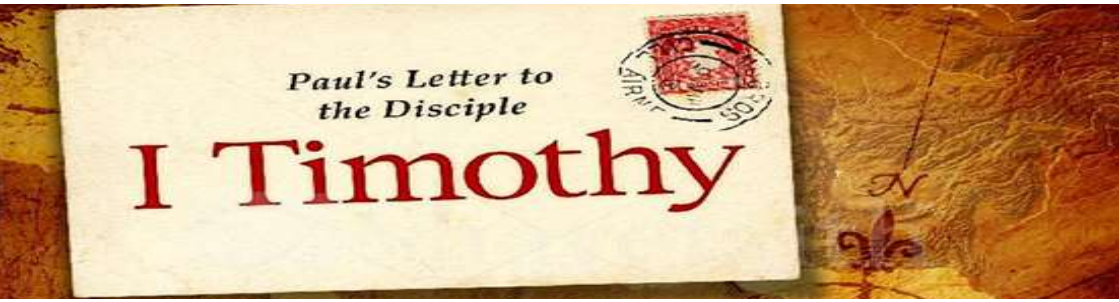
Prayer Points

1. Pray that Christ will be known as the only Mediator between God and mankind.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For there is one God, and there is one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 2:5

Praise: Psalm 2:all - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Paul's Letter to
the Disciple

I Timothy

Thursday - 1 Timothy 2:1-7 - Pray for All People

As we noted yesterday, verses 1-4 are true because verses 5-6 are true. Because there is One God, not many gods; because He came to us in the Person of Jesus Christ who gave himself as a ransom; because there is only One God-Man who can be Mediator between God and mankind; therefore, Paul urges that prayers of all kinds (supplications etc.) be made for all people. Now, of course, we know (and Paul knew) that it is impossible for any one of us to pray for every human being by name. So what does he mean that we should pray for "all people"? The Greek word translated as "all" does not necessarily mean "every last one." It can mean "all manner of" or "all kinds of." Indeed, the fact that Paul then writes in verse 2 of "kings and all who are in high positions," tells us he means that "all manner of people, no matter what their station in life, should be prayed-for." Particularly, Paul wants us to pray for those in high position in civil government so that they will leave Christians free to live godly lives and proclaim the Gospel openly. More pointedly, he wants us to pray for the salvation of all manner of people (including our leaders), for God desires to save all manner of people as they come to a knowledge of the Truth. In verse 7, Paul says he was appointed a preacher and apostle for the proclamation of this message.

Do you pray for those in authority over you in civil government? Do you pray that governments will secure peace and freedom for Christians to live godly lives and to proclaim the Gospel openly? Do you pray for the salvation of all manner of people? Do you pray because there is only One Mediator between God and Mankind?

Questions

1. What does the word "all" mean in this passage?
2. Why should Christians pray for all manner of people?
3. Why should we pray for those in civil authority?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for all manner of people, especially those in high civil office.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For there is one God, and there is one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus. I Timothy 2:5

Praise: Psalm 21:7-12- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Paul's Letter to
the Disciple



I Timothy

Friday - 1 Timothy 2:8 - Holy Hands

In the early verses of chapter 2, Paul says that Christians should pray for all manner of people, for there is one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. In verse eight, he says that, for this reason, men should pray wherever they are (in every place), lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling. It is noteworthy that, whereas the word translated as "people," "men" and "man" in the earlier verses means "human being(s)," the word for "men" in verse eight specifically means "adult males" (and is juxtaposed with the word for "women" in verse 9). Thus, the instructions in verse 8 are specifically for men. (We'll deal with Paul's instructions to women tomorrow).

Wherever Christian men are, they are to pray. When they come together for prayer, they must do so "lifting holy hands." Paul does not mean that there is only one physical position in which one may pray. Rather, the emphasis is on the holiness of a man's hands. Psalm 24:4 says that only a man "who has clean hands and a pure heart" may enter God's presence for worship. Thanks be to God all believers are cleansed in Christ, but Paul is emphasizing the importance of coming into God's presence for worship/prayer with a right attitude of heart. This involves being reconciled to our brethren ("without anger") and unreluctantly praying with them ("without quarreling"). It may be that the men of the Ephesian church (where Timothy was pastor) were particularly prone to divisive quarrels, and, so, Paul made sure to give Timothy these instructions.

Questions

1. Is Christian prayer limited to a particular place?
2. What does it mean to have "holy hands"?
3. What does it mean to pray "without anger or quarreling"?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that Christian men join in prayer without anger or quarreling.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For there is one God, and there is one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus. I Timothy 2:5

Praise: Psalm 24:all - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Paul's Letter to
the Disciple



I Timothy

Saturday - 1 Timothy 2:9-15 - Women Who Profess Godliness

Paul gives special instructions pertaining to "what is proper for women who profess godliness." First, they are to dress modestly, with a greater concern for adorning themselves with self-control and good works than with the trappings of earthly beauty. Secondly, they are to learn. Contrary to what many Jewish rabbis and pagan philosophers of the time were teaching, the New Testament teaches that women in Christ have equal standing to men in Christ. Consequently, they, like men, are to learn, that they may be growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ and be loving God with heart, soul, strength and mind. This equal spiritual standing, however, does not cancel out roles within authority structures. Thus, third, women are to learn quietly with a submissive attitude, not presuming to teach in the Church or take a role of authority (like that of the overseer in the next passage) which God reserves for men.

Paul cites two Biblical reasons that teaching and governing office is reserved for men in the church - the order of creation and the events of the Fall. Because the man was created before his wife to be the covenant head of the family, and she was created to be his helpmate, men take leadership roles in the church. When a woman takes this role to herself, as Eve did, she leaves herself open to being deceived. (This may be hard to understand, but just note the fruit circumventing these instructions has borne - every denomination that has ordained women to teaching/ruling office has spiraled into increasingly serious errors).

Verse 15 is, likewise, hard to understand. Some interpret this to mean that a woman may be "saved" from a desire to take a male-only role by learning to be content with her role in the family. Others see Paul as referring to Eve retrospectively. Though Eve's usurpation of her husband's role led to the fall, she was saved through childbearing by the coming of her Seed (Genesis 3:15), Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. What does Paul say women should do?
2. What does Paul say women should not do?
3. What reasons does he give for reserving teaching and ruling in the Church to men?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For there is one God, and there is one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus. I Timothy 2:5

Praise: Psalm 128:all - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced for the RP Global Alliance
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If you have any queries please contact - admin@rpglobalalliance.org