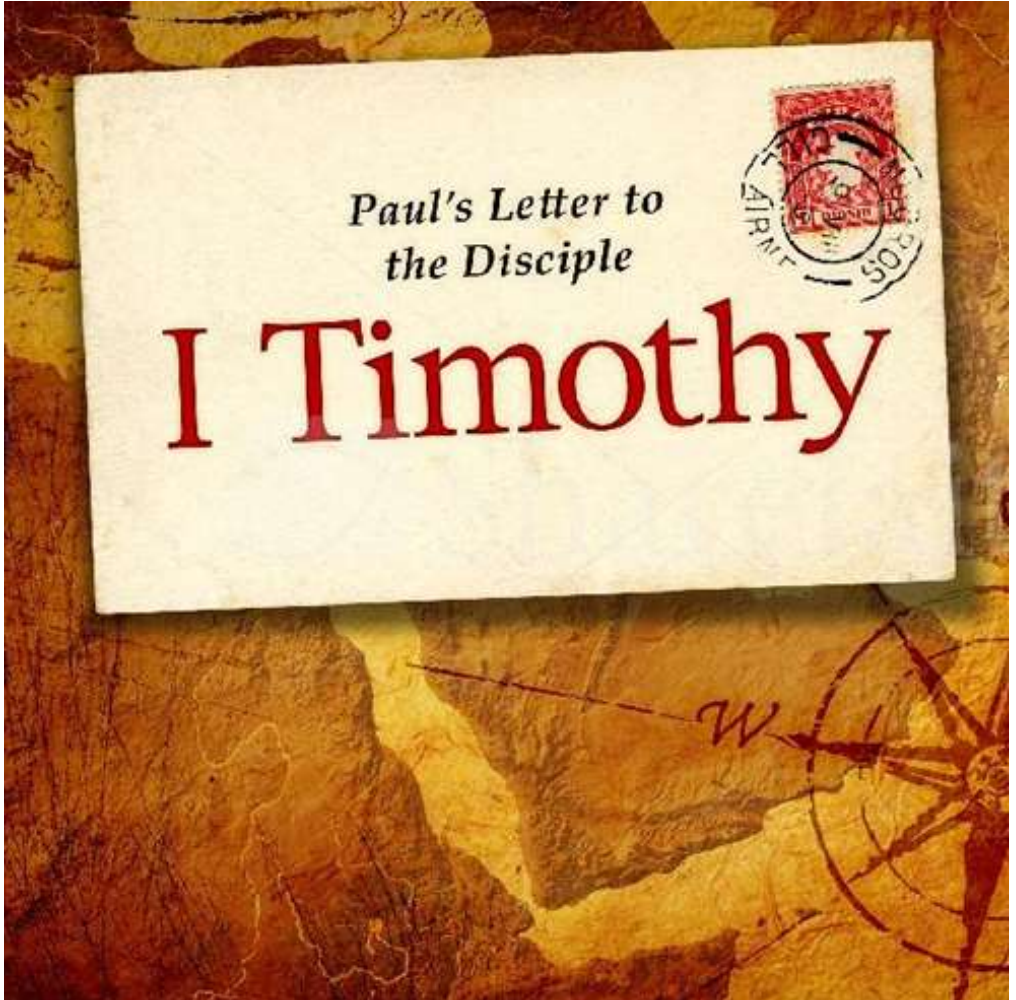


Let's Worship God

23rd-28th April 2018

1 Timothy



Paul's Letter to
the Disciple

I Timothy



Monday - 1 Timothy 1:1-2 - Paul and Timothy

For the next few weeks we will be looking at the book of 1 Timothy using notes written by Rev. Daniel Hemken, minister of Hebron RPCNA. The Book of Acts ends with the Apostle Paul imprisoned in Rome. Piecing together evidence from his letters and from the testimony of the early Church fathers, we learn that Paul was released from this imprisonment and went on another missionary journey which included visits to many of the churches he had founded in Asia Minor, Macedonia and Greece. It was during this journey that he preached the Gospel in Crete, where he left Titus to organize churches. He also visited the church in Ephesus (in modern-day Turkey), where he left Timothy to serve as pastor while he went on to Macedonia. It is from Macedonia that he writes this first letter to Timothy.

I Timothy is (along with II Timothy and Titus) one of Paul's "Pastoral Epistles" - letters written to pastors whom the Apostle had trained for ministry. As he begins the letter, Paul identifies himself as "an Apostle of Christ Jesus, by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope," demonstrating that God - particularly in the Person of Christ - has commissioned him to be His Apostle - a messenger (literally "sent one") who speaks with the authority of the King who sent him. It is with that authority that Paul can greet Timothy with "grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

He addresses the letter to "Timothy my true child in the faith." Timothy can be called Paul's true child for several reasons, including: 1) He came to faith in Christ as a result of Paul's having preached the Gospel in his home region of Galatia, 2) He has faithfully followed and obeyed Paul's teachings, 3) He has humbly served Christ by following Paul's example.

Are you a true child of the Apostles in the faith? Have you heard and believed the Good News of salvation by God's grace, alone, working through faith, alone, in Jesus Christ, alone? Have you obeyed the teachings of Scripture? Do you humbly follow the example of Christ's faithful servants who have gone before you?

Questions

1. What does it mean that Paul is an Apostle of Jesus Christ?
2. What are some ways in which Timothy was Paul's "true child in the faith"?
3. How might you know if you are a "true child" like Timothy?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for assurance that you are a true child in the faith.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. I Timothy 1:15

Praise: Psalm 34:7-14 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Tuesday - 1 Timothy 1:3-4 - Different Doctrines

After greeting Timothy (v.1-2), Paul reminds the younger man of why he left him in Ephesus. When the Apostle and his true child in the faith visited this city, they found that some were teaching doctrines that were inconsistent with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the whole counsel of God found in the Bible. Instead of promoting a deeper understanding of God's revealed Word, many were devoting themselves to "myths and endless genealogies." These were probably fables and legends involving the people who appear in the Old Testament tables of nations and lists of family lines. Rather than encouraging sound application of Biblical principles to people's faith and lives, they were promoting speculations beyond the teachings of Scripture.

Paul says that people in the Ephesian church were "devoting" themselves to these speculations, rather than "the stewardship of God that is by faith" (ESV). The term translated here as "stewardship" might also be translated "good order" or "edification." In other words, these speculations, instead of edifying the church's faith in Jesus Christ (which is what all sound teaching does), were distracting people from good Biblical doctrine.

While it is good for Christians to be aware of (and able to answer) what others teach - particularly if they claim to be teaching from the Bible - we must never let speculations distract us from study of what the Scriptures are actually teaching. The Bible has far more depth than can be plumbed in a lifetime. Let us be content to learn what God has clearly spoken.

Questions

1. Why did Paul leave Timothy in Ephesus?
2. What did these "myths and endless genealogies" promote?
3. Why is speculation beyond Scripture a bad idea?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we all might be content to learn what God clearly teaches in the Bible.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. 1 Timothy 1:15

Praise: Psalm 19B:all - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - 1 Timothy 1:5-7 - The Aim of Love

Yesterday, we saw that some in Ephesus were engaging in wild speculations beyond the teachings of Scripture that were distracting people from the true doctrines of the Bible, which build up Christian faith and bring good order to the Church. Today, we see both the motive and the underlying cause of these speculations. The motive is that those who promote these speculations desire to be teachers in the church. However, Paul makes clear that they are unqualified. One piece of evidence that they are unqualified to teach is that they speak as if certain about things they clearly do not understand. Worse, though, than showing themselves to be unqualified intellectually, they are morally and spiritually unqualified - which gets at the underlying cause of engaging in speculation.

The underlying cause is a lack of the fruit the Gospel - namely love that issues from a pure heart, a good conscience and sincere faith. The Gospel of Jesus Christ (and the teaching of good Biblical doctrines that go hand-in-hand with it) calls sinners to repentance and faith in Christ Jesus. Sincere faith in Him comes from a pure heart - that is, a heart changed by the Holy Spirit - which loves God for who He really is. Such a changed heart also produces a healthy conscience which, guided by His Word, convicts us of sin and affirms righteousness. Lacking such faith, love of God and His Word, and sound consciences these false teachers wander away into "vain discussions" that produce nothing of use to living a life consistent with faith in Christ.

Questions

1. How are these teachers intellectually unqualified?
2. What makes them morally and spiritually unqualified?
3. List some results of having a Spirit-changed heart?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would exhibit love that issues from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. 1 Timothy 1:15

Praise: Psalm 40:10-18 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - 1 Timothy 1:8-11 - Right Use of the Law

When Paul, in verse 7, condemns these false teachers who desire to be teachers of the law, he is not condemning God's law at all. On the contrary, Paul affirms God's law is good, but points out that it must be used lawfully - that is the Bible is to be applied not by engaging in wild speculations but according to its own principles. God did not reveal His moral law so that sinners could try to be good enough to earn their way into His glorious presence. Any attempt to use the law in that manner is vain. Instead, the right use of God's law is to expose our need for a Savior. The law was not written for "the just" (in other words, those who of their own ability could obey it), but for "the ungodly and sinners." Indeed, God's moral law (summarized in the Ten Commandments) exposes just how sinful each human being other than Jesus actually is. The fact that none of us has kept or can keep God's law perfectly shows that we need a sinless Substitute to pay the penalty for our sins and to live a righteous life on our behalf, that we might be counted as worthy of entering God's heavenly presence. For those who are saved through faith in Christ, the law no longer condemns, but rather teaches us how to show our love for the God who has saved us by His grace, by warning us about those things that are "contrary to sound doctrine."

Of particular note in this passage is verse eleven, which tells us that the only way a teaching can be considered "sound" or "healthy" is if it accords with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Any doctrine that contradicts or undermines the true Gospel in any way is a false doctrine that must be rejected.

Questions

1. What does God's law expose?
2. How is it useful for those who are already saved?
3. What must we know of a teaching in order to consider it "sound"?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would use God's law rightly.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. 1 Timothy 1:15

Praise: Psalm 5:all - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - 1 Timothy 1:12-16 - Overflowing Grace

In yesterday's reading, Paul spoke of "the Gospel of the glory of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted." Today, he states clearly what that Gospel is. Paul had formerly blasphemed the Name of Christ Jesus, having opposed His followers as believers in a false Messiah. Ignorant of the truth and blinded to it by his sinful nature, he zealously persecuted Christians, thinking he was faithfully serving God by doing so. There is no way such a person will, of his own accord, believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ. However, when Paul, in his opposition to the Gospel, was the foremost of sinners - a blasphemer, persecutor and insolent opponent - God poured His grace upon him to such a degree that Paul says it "overflowed," creating in his heart a faith in and love for Jesus. Through this faith, Paul was judged righteous and appointed to Christ's service as an Apostle. Thus, Paul's salvation is an example to others that salvation is by God's grace alone and that Christ is perfect in His patience with sinners. Indeed, Paul is clear evidence that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Paul was saved in exactly the same way anyone else is saved. No one goes to heaven by his or her own merits, and no one can will himself into loving God or believing in Christ. It takes a sovereign act of God, by His overflowing grace, to change a sinner's heart, that he or she would love Christ and have faith in Him. The result of saving faith is "eternal life."

Questions

1. Why did Paul consider himself the "foremost of sinners"?
2. How is a sinner saved?
3. What is the result of saving faith?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the advancement of the Gospel in the world.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. I Timothy 1:15

Praise: Psalm 4:all - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Saturday - 1 Timothy 1:17 - Praise to God

It is important to note that in I Timothy 1:15, Paul says that "Christ Jesus came into the world." The fact that He came into the world shows that He existed before His incarnation - that is, before He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, He existed. Thus, when Paul, after recounting his own salvation by the grace of God, breaks forth into praise in verse 17, this praise includes Jesus Christ as a Person of the Godhead.

Paul's praise of the LORD teaches several things about our God: 1) He is the King of Ages - the One who rules over all things, including time itself. 2) He is immortal - the term can mean "deathless" or "incorruptible." In other words, God is not subject to time (which He created), or decay or change of any kind. He is immutable (changeless) in His nature. 3) He is the only (or only-wise) God - the All-knowing Creator of all things. There is no other god. 4) Honor and glory belong to Him forever.

Receiving salvation by God's grace causes the believer to break forth in praise and love of God for who He really is. May all who are saved reflect on their salvation and give Him the praise due His Name.

Questions

1. Why is it important to know that Christ Jesus "came into" the world?
2. What does salvation cause the believer to do?
3. Name four things Paul tells us about God in verse 17.

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

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. I Timothy 1:15

Praise: Psalm 10:7-10 - 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!**

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