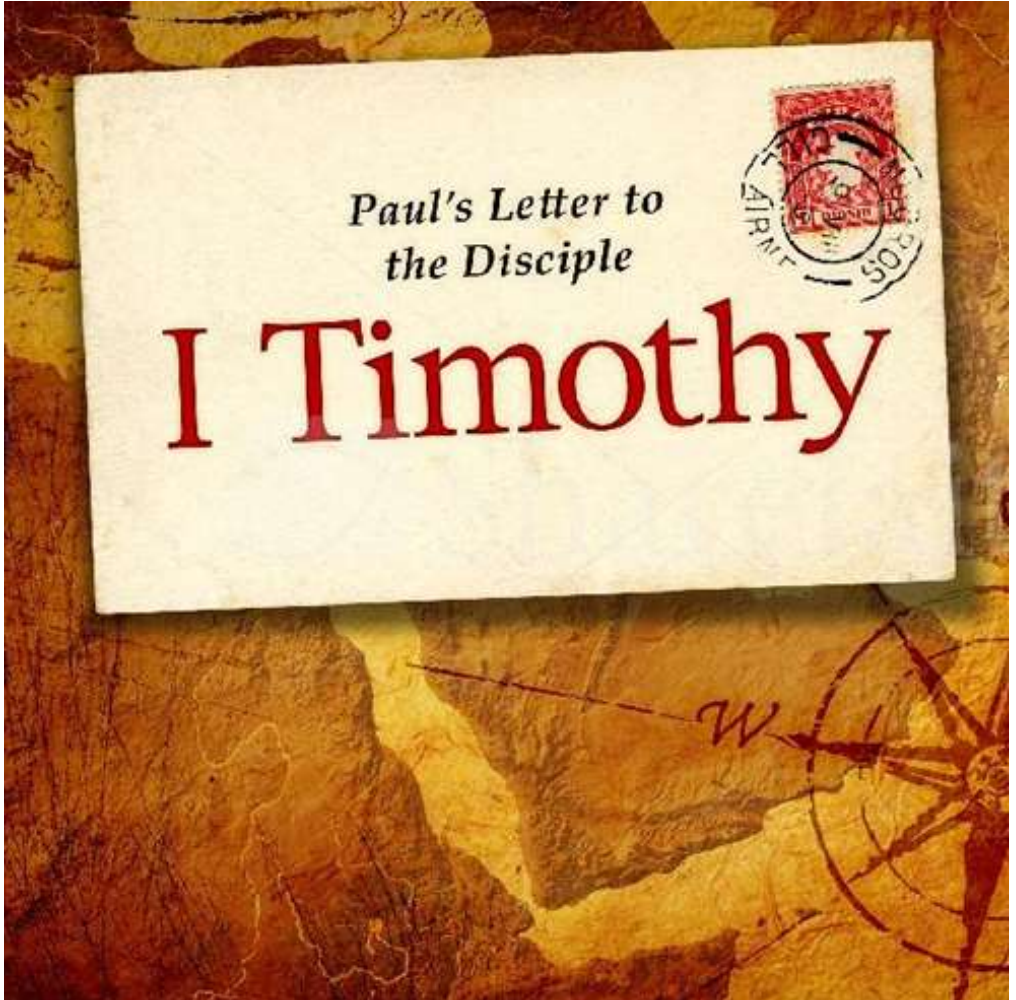


Let's Worship God

7th-12th May 2018

1 Timothy



Paul's Letter to
the Disciple

I Timothy



Monday - 1 Timothy 2:13-15 - Adam Was Not Deceived

We saw last week that Paul cites two reasons that there are roles reserved for men in the Church's authority structure: namely, the order of Creation and the circumstances of the Fall. Many have misunderstood Paul, thinking he is claiming that women are somehow inferior, because he says Eve was deceived but Adam was not. However, this is not at all the case. In fact, he lays the greater responsibility for the fall of mankind into sin at the feet of the first man. Eve was deceived, but Adam knew exactly what he was doing when he ate the forbidden fruit. In fact, as we read the account in Genesis 3, we find that Eve gave the fruit to her husband "who was with her" (Genesis 3:6). Not only did Adam know what he was doing when he chose to disobey God, he had likely observed the whole conversation between his wife and the Serpent. Thus, it is through Adam, the covenant head of the human family, that the entire human race fell into sin and misery, so Paul can say in Romans 5:12 that "sin came into the world through one man and death through sin."

Praise be to God, there is another covenant Head for all who are adopted into God's family - Jesus Christ. Thus, in I Corinthians 15:21-23, Paul can write, "For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ" (ESV). All who are united to Christ by faith have Him as their Covenant Head, and therefore, since He lived a perfectly righteous life and died a sinner's death in their place, they are counted as righteous for His sake.

Questions

1. Whom does the Bible hold responsible for the Fall, Adam or Eve?
2. Why does Paul say sin came by one man?
3. For whom is Christ the Covenant Head?

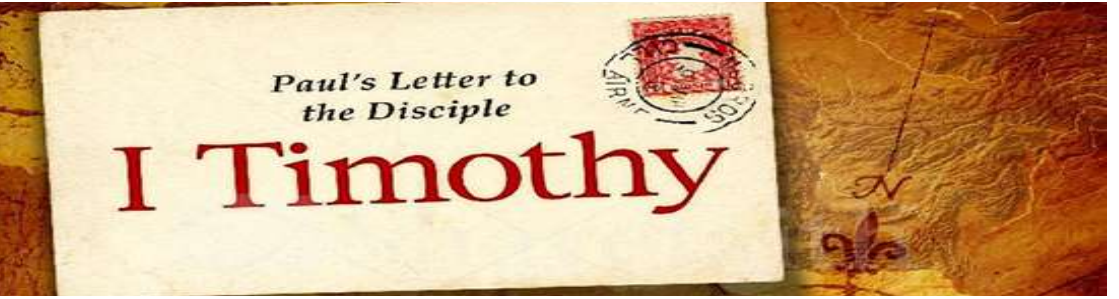
Prayer Points

1. Praise God that Jesus is the Covenant Head of His people.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh; vindicated by the Spirit; seen by angels; proclaimed among the nations; believed on in the world; taken up in glory. I Timothy 3:16

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Paul's Letter to
the Disciple

I Timothy

Tuesday - 1 Timothy 3:1-7 - Overseers

We could spend several weeks on the topic of the office of overseer, but for our purposes, here, we will briefly study what Paul says about this office. First, we should note that the Greek word which means "overseer" is that from which we get our English word "bishop." However, Scriptures like Titus 1:5-7 and Acts 20:17 & 28 make clear that the overseer/bishop is the same as the office of elder. Far from being governor of many congregations in a region, the overseer/bishop is one of several elders in the local church. Secondly, we see that the qualifications for this office are mostly spiritual and moral. An overseer must be above reproach (of known good moral character), the husband of one wife (literally a "one-woman man" - a man who practices fidelity in marriage or chastity in singleness), sober-minded (makes clear-headed decisions), self-controlled (well-ordered in his thoughts), respectable (well-ordered in his life), hospitable (has a love for strangers), able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle (controls his temper), not quarrelsome (not given to being argumentative), and not a lover of money. He must also have a well-ordered home-life and should not be a recent convert, lest his quick advancement in the church make him conceited. Lastly, he must have a good reputation even among unbelievers.

Notice that "able to teach" is the only purely intellectual qualification. The rest have to do with a man's moral character and the fruits borne from a healthy spiritual life. Christians should be careful to select such men to be the elders in our churches.

Questions

1. By what other name is the office of bishop/overseer known?
2. What kind of man should we choose to be an elder?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that Christians would choose well-qualified men to be elders.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh; vindicated by the Spirit; seen by angels; proclaimed among the nations; believed on in the world; taken up in glory. 1 Timothy 3:16

Praise: Psalm 107:21-24 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Paul's Letter to
the Disciple

I Timothy



Wednesday - 1 Timothy 3:8-13 - Deacons

The term "deacon" means "servant." In the broadest sense, every Christian is to be a deacon/servant. In Mark 9:35, for example, Jesus tells us that anyone who wants to be first in His Kingdom "must be last of all and servant [deacon] of all." However, there are some who are ordained to the office of deacon - servant of the church. As with the office of overseer, the qualifications for the office of deacon are mostly spiritual and moral. Unlike the office of overseer, there is no requirement that the deacon be "able to teach." This is because the office of deacon is not a teaching or authoritative office, but one of service, carrying out the financial and mercy ministries of the church.

Most of these moral and spiritual qualities parallel those required of elders, so we need not repeat ourselves. However, verse 9 should be examined more closely. A deacon "must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience." In the New Testament, a "mystery" is something previously unclear which is now revealed in Christ Jesus. A deacon needs to be someone who understands the Person and Work of Jesus Christ, and then who lives out the Gospel in a life of service. Verse 13 tells us that those who serve well in this office gain a high reputation for themselves and gain great assurance that the fruits of true faith in Christ are being borne in their lives.

Questions

1. What is different about the office of deacon when compared to that of elder/overseer?
2. What is similar?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that Christians would choose well-qualified deacons.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh; vindicated by the Spirit; seen by angels; proclaimed among the nations; believed on in the world; taken up in glory. I Timothy 3:16

Praise: Psalm 31:9-18 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Paul's Letter to
the Disciple

I Timothy



Thursday - 1 Timothy 3:14-16 - The Mystery of Godliness

Paul says he is writing all these things to Timothy so that, in case he is delayed in his journey to Ephesus, Timothy will know how to teach people to behave "in the household of God." This household is not a building, but the family of God's people, the Church of the Living God. This Church upholds Truth to the world, like a strong pillar, buttress, or foundation. Key to upholding Truth is the Mystery of Godliness.

As we noted yesterday, in the New Testament, a mystery is something that used to be hidden or unclear, but which is now revealed in Christ Jesus (see, for example, Romans 16:25-26 and Colossians 2:2). By calling this "the mystery of godliness," Paul indicates that certain things revealed in Christ produce godliness in believers - changed lives that glorify God. Particularly, he mentions that 1) Christ was manifested in the flesh - God became human; 2) He was vindicated by the Spirit - His miracles and His resurrection proved He was telling the Truth about God; 3) He was seen by angels - Angels (both holy and fallen) saw and acknowledged Him as the Son of God; 4) He was proclaimed among the nations - The Gospel spread quickly beyond Israel in fulfillment of Jesus' commandments and predictions; 5) He was believed on in the world - As the Gospel went forth, the elect heard and believed it; 6) He was taken up in glory - His ascension and seating at the Father's right hand shows His Father's pleasure in Him and that His redemptive work is accomplished.

True godliness rests in knowing who Jesus is, what He has done, that His atoning work is finished and that He now reigns at the right hand of God the Father.

Questions

1. What is the household of God?
2. What makes it a pillar and buttress of the truth?
3. On what does true godliness rest?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that more would come to know who Jesus is and what He has done.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh; vindicated by the Spirit; seen by angels; proclaimed among the nations; believed on in the world; taken up in glory. 1 Timothy 3:16

Praise: Psalm 110:all- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Paul's Letter to
the Disciple



I Timothy

Friday - 1 Timothy 4:1-5 - Teachings of Demons

In today's reading, Paul warns Timothy that God the Holy Spirit has specifically revealed that "in the later times some will depart from the faith." We need to note that in the New Testament, terms like "later times" or "last days" refers to the whole age from Christ's first coming to His return. During this age, many professing Christians will depart from truth because they are devoted to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons. When people depart from the basic teachings of Christianity (like the Mystery of Godliness in yesterday's reading), they are giving themselves over to the teachings of evil spirits. False religion has its source in Satan and his servants and is promoted by people who have become so comfortable with defying God's Word that their consciences are like cauterized flesh - scar tissue that has no ability to feel.

Paul particularly warns Timothy about those who "forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods." He points out that marriage and foods are gifts from God. No food can make a man unsuitable for God's presence if that food is received with thanksgiving to the One who provided it.

Throughout the history of the Church, false gospels have tended to focus on human works and earthly conditions. (Consider the modern health, wealth, and prosperity gospel). Every false religion says we attain our goal (whether "heaven," "oneness with God" or something else) by what we do. God-revealed religion tells us our works contribute nothing to our salvation, but, rather, that Jesus has paid it all. Our standing before God depends completely on Him. While this produces good works in believers, our salvation is wholly accomplished by Jesus alone. Anything that teaches to the contrary, or that otherwise forbids anything God has called "good" is a doctrine of demons.

Questions

1. What is meant by "later times"?
2. From where do false doctrines come?
3. What kind of people promote the doctrines of demons?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that Christ will overthrow every false teaching.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh; vindicated by the Spirit; seen by angels; proclaimed among the nations; believed on in the world; taken up in glory. 1 Timothy 3:16

Praise: Psalm 106:24-30 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Paul's Letter to
the Disciple



I Timothy

Saturday - 1 Timothy 4:6-16 - A Good Servant of Christ Jesus

In today's passage, we see several qualities of a good servant of Christ - particularly of a good pastor. First, a good pastor is trained in sound doctrine (v. 6). Second, he has nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths (v. 7). That is, while he will be aware of false doctrines and other things which distract his people from God's Word, he will not let himself be distracted by them. Third, he trains himself for godliness as an athlete does for a competition (v.7-8). Fourth, he toils and strives to do his work well, knowing that his hope is set not on the things of this world but on the Living God (v.10). Fifth, He commands and teaches sound doctrine (v.11). Sixth, he sets a good example in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, giving the enemies of the Gospel no excuse to despise his youth (that is, not to take him seriously) (v.12). Seventh, he devotes himself to the public reading, preaching and teaching of God's Word (v. 13-14). Eighth, his life is dominated by the ministry of the Word (v. 15). Lastly, he pays close attention to himself and to what he is teaching (v.16).

Notice that most of these qualities have to do with a devotion to sound doctrine and being well-prepared to preach and teach. False, weak and worldly churches have all manner of ideas about how a good pastor spends his time, but the hard work of preparing to preach and teach should take up the bulk of a faithful pastor's efforts. These are the things for which Christians should look in a potential pastor and/or which they should encourage in their current pastor.

Questions

1. What are some qualities of a good pastor?
2. With what do most of these qualities have to do?

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

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh; vindicated by the Spirit; seen by angels; proclaimed among the nations; believed on in the world; taken up in glory. 1 Timothy 3:16

Praise: Psalm 19A:5-9 - 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
by Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

If you have any queries please contact - admin@rpglobalalliance.org