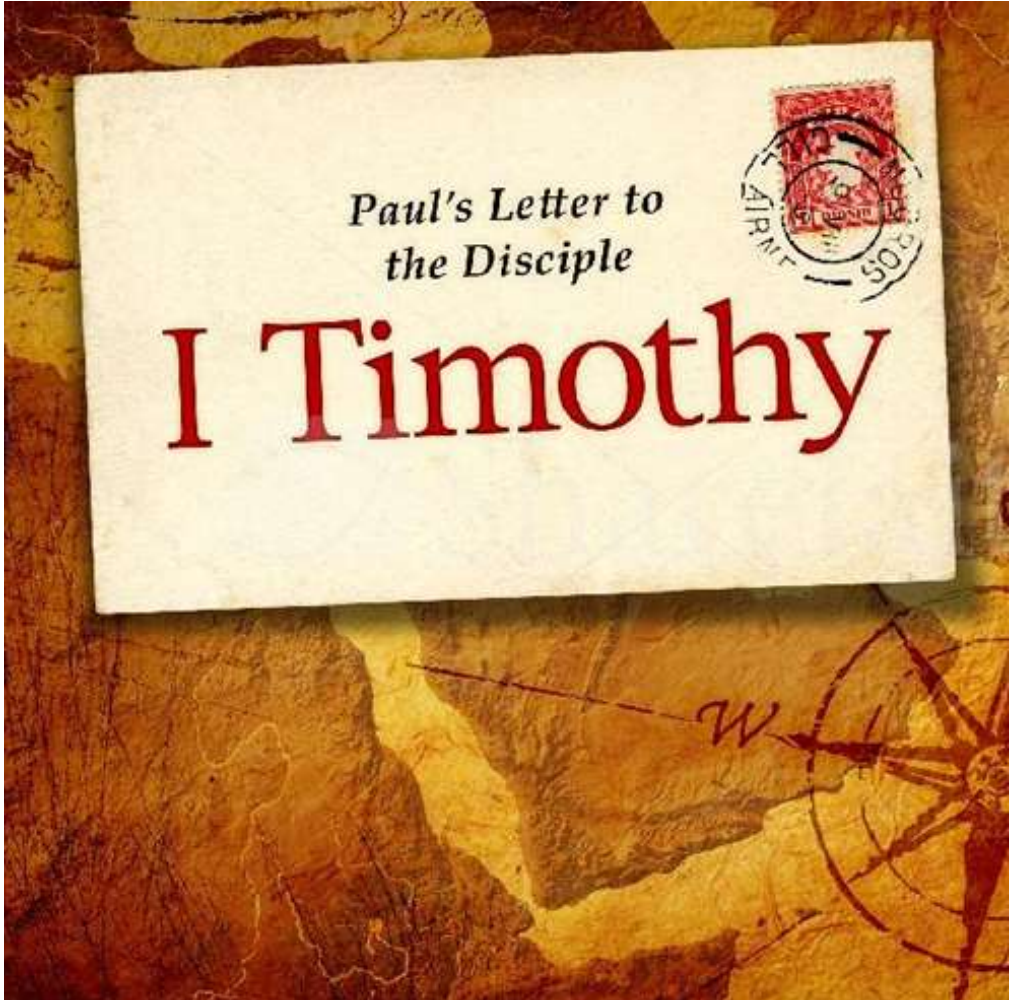


Let's Worship God

14th-19th May 2018

1 Timothy



Paul's Letter to
the Disciple

I Timothy



Monday - 1 Timothy 4:10 - The Savior of Those Who Believe

Last week, we considered the qualities of a good pastor which Paul sets forth in this chapter. Before we move on, we need to consider a couple of important issues - the first of which is found in verse 10. Paul says God is "the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe." Because the New Testament clearly teaches that there is no eternal salvation for any but those whose faith is in Christ, we know Paul cannot be teaching that, in the end, every last human being will be saved from God's wrath and live forever in glory. So, what does he mean? There are a few ways to understand this Scripture:

1. The Gospel call goes out to all people. In that sense, God is the potential Savior of every human being, but He is the actual Savior only of those who, being brought to new life by the Holy Spirit, believe.

2. As we saw in chapter 2, "all people" can mean "all manner of people." If that is the best understanding, then the word translated "especially" (chiefly, most of all, above all) might be understood as meaning something like "particularly," "namely" or "by which I mean." In other words, God is the Savior of all manner of people who believe in Jesus Christ.

3. The New Testament uses the verb "to save" in many ways, including rescue from danger, healing of diseases and injuries as well as spiritual, eternal salvation. In His common grace, God gives good things to all people, preserving life and withholding His wrath for a time. Everlasting life in glory, however, is given only to those who have faith in Jesus. Therefore, He is the Savior of all, but He is Savior of believers to a much greater degree.

Questions

1. Can there be everlasting salvation for those who never have faith in Jesus?
2. What difference might our understanding of the word "all" and "especially" make as we read this verse?
3. How might God be Savior of all while being Savior of believers to a greater degree?

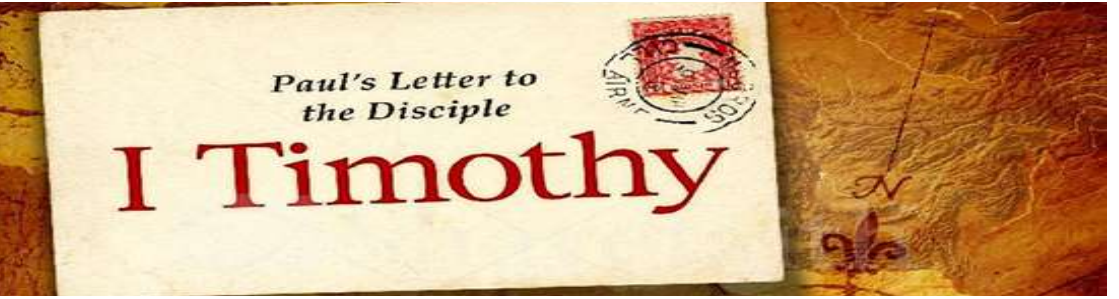
Prayer Points

1. Praise God that He is Savior.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. 1 Timothy 4:10

Praise: Psalm 118:12-18 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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I Timothy

Tuesday - 1 Timothy 4:11-16 - The Council of Elders

Another thing to consider before we move on from chapter 4 is found in verse 14. Paul reminds Timothy of a time when a "council of elders" laid hands on him. In Titus 1:5, we find that the Apostle left Titus in Crete with an extraordinary authority to appoint elders in every town. (We should note that it was not "an elder" for every town, but multiple elders). However, even in the days of the Apostles, we learn that authority to ordain and commission for special ministry rested in elders who came together in a council (this is known as having a "plurality" of elders - see Acts 13:1-3). In fact, the word translated here as "council of elders" is the source of our words "presbytery" and "presbyterian."

In the New Testament, we find local churches are to be governed, overseen, taught, and shepherded by a plurality of elders (see, for example, Acts 20:17-38). Also, elders counsel other elders outside of their own congregation (consider II John 1 and III John 1, in which John does not cite his authority as an Apostle, but calls himself "the elder" and, as such, offers counsel). Furthermore, elders from various local churches come together in councils which have authority over the local churches (see Acts 15). From these Scriptures, we learn that what is known as the Presbyterian Form of Church Government is not merely an option, but the form of Church Government the LORD has set forth for us in His Word, in which the church is governed by Christ through a plurality of elders. On the local level, this is usually known as a Session (or Consistory). Higher courts of the church have names like presbytery (or classis), synod, or general assembly. Whatever the name we assign to these courts of the Church, the Church is to be governed by a plurality of elders who shepherd under the Great Shepherd Jesus Christ, who is the only King and Head of the Church.

Questions

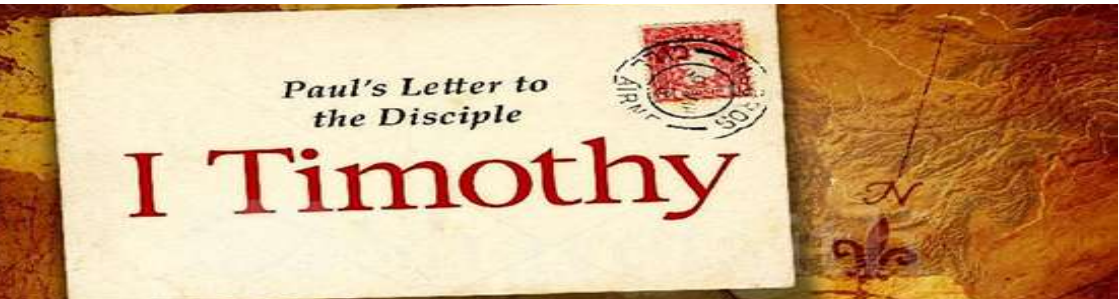
1. From where do the words "presbyter" and "presbyterian" come?
2. What is meant by "a plurality of elders"?
3. What form of Church Government is set forth in Scripture?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for your Session and the higher courts of the Church.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. I Timothy 4:10
Praise: Psalm 107:18-24 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Paul's Letter to
the Disciple

I Timothy

Wednesday - 1 Timothy 5:1-2 - The Church as Family

In today's reading, Paul tells Timothy how to treat people in his congregation. Notice that the fact that the Gospel brings salvation to all who believe so that, as Paul says in Galatians 3:28, in Christ "there is no Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male or female," does not mean that we treat everyone exactly the same. Whether someone is older or younger, our husband or wife, our child or parent etc. will make a difference in how we treat that person. Here, Paul instructs Timothy to treat older men in the church as he would treat his father. He is not to rebuke them sharply, but to correct them through respectful encouragement. Similarly, he is to treat older women with the honor of a mother. Younger men (closer to his own age) he is to treat as his brothers. Women closer to his age, he is to treat as sisters in all purity. (If Timothy were to marry, he must certainly marry a Christian woman, but he must see a young woman in the church as much more than a potential wife. Christian women are his sisters in Christ and, so, must be treated with the honor and respect a sister should receive from her brother).

The overarching theme of these verses is that the Christians are to treat each other as a family. This is much more than just a good policy for getting along. It reflects the deep spiritual reality that everyone whose faith is in Christ is adopted into God's family (see Ephesians 2:19) and, thus, are considered God's children (John 1:12) and co-heirs of His Kingdom with Christ (Galatians 4:7).

Questions

1. Does the fact that all Christians share the same spiritual standing before God mean we treat each other all the same?
2. How are we to treat Christians who are older than we are?
3. How should we treat those our age or younger?
4. Why is it important that Christians act like a family?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that all in the Church would treat each other as family.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. 1 Timothy 4:10

Praise: Psalm 122:all - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Paul's Letter to
the Disciple



I Timothy

Thursday - 1 Timothy 5:3-8 - Providing for Relatives

We saw yesterday that Christians are to treat each other as family. Along with that, we noted that our equal spiritual standing in Christ does not mean we treat all Christians the same. Related to that fact is the understanding that we still have earthly families, toward whom we have responsibilities. For example, a Christian son is to honor his father and mother, whether they are believers or not. In today's passage we find that churches have a responsibility to care for members who cannot provide for themselves (as would happen in any responsible family). However, such care begins with the earthly family. In other words, the church in general is to care for widows who are truly left without any family to care for them. If a widow has adult children, they should care for her before the church takes on that responsibility.

In James 1:27 we learn that true religion involves caring for widows and orphans. That is, a person who is truly saved will do good things as an outgrowth of his/her faith, including caring for those who cannot care for themselves. If a Christian refuses to do this, even for his own family according to the flesh, he is showing that he has little interest in living out his faith. Therefore, Paul says a Christian who has the means to care for his own family but refuses to (and, thus, leaves it up to the church) is not only unnecessarily burdening the church, but "has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

Questions

1. What makes a woman "truly a widow"?
2. Who should take care of a widow who has (adult) children?
3. Why does Paul say someone who refuses to care for the widows in his family has denied the faith?

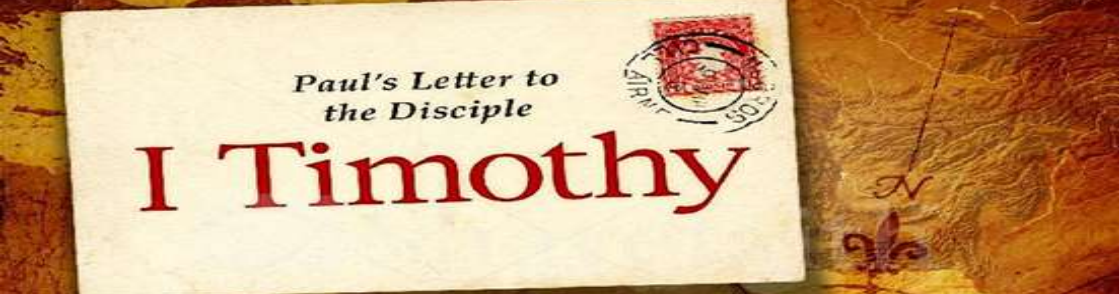
Prayer Points

1. Pray for widows and orphans.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. 1 Timothy 4:10

Praise: Psalm 68:1-6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Paul's Letter to
the Disciple

I Timothy

Friday - 1 Timothy 5:9-16 - True Widows

In today's reading, Paul reinforces what we saw yesterday - that the church is to care for widows who are truly left without any other means of support. Some women are technically widows but are not left all alone without any ability to make their way in the world. This would include women whose husbands have died, but who have adult children or other close relatives who can care for them. Yesterday's passage showed that Paul condemns Christians who do not take care of the widows in their families. In verse 16, Paul says those who do not take care of the widows in their families are unnecessarily burdening the church with their care. Not only does this create a strain on the church in terms of time and money, it takes away from widows who truly have no other means to support themselves.

Paul says a widow is to be enrolled (that is, put on a list to receive permanent aid from the church) only if she is truly without family to help her, of an age at which she will not likely remarry or find another means to care for herself, and has shown herself to be a believer by having borne fruits of faith and repentance in her life. Local churches do not have unlimited resources and, thus, cannot care for every widow or person in need. We should help as many in need as we can, but churches cannot give permanent aid to unbelievers, widows with children to help them, or who are young enough to support themselves or to remarry. Furthermore, permanently supporting younger widows would not only create an undue burden on the church's resources, it would encourage able-bodied women to live lives of idleness. In such a situation, not only might she be tempted to fill her time with gossip and meddling in the business of others, but Satan would use it as a means to slander the church, as it would appear that the church's policies promote wickedness.

Questions

1. What happens if the church takes care of those who have other means of support?
2. Why would Paul not want younger widows to be enrolled for permanent aid?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that church's will use their resources wisely.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. 1 Timothy 4:10

Praise: Psalm 146A:all - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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I Timothy



Saturday - 1 Timothy 5:17 - Ruling and Teaching Elders

Back in chapter 2 verse 12 we learned that teaching and ruling office in the Church is reserved for men. In chapter 3, we learned of the qualities a man must have in order to be ordained to the office of overseer (which we saw, by considering Acts 20 and Titus 1, is also known as the office of elder). Earlier this week, we saw in I Timothy 4:14 that Christ rules His Church on earth by means of a plurality of elders. Today, we learn that there are two types of elders.

Paul says, "Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor." Next week, LORD willing, we will study what it means to give double honor. For now, we note that elders have the role of ruling in the Church. That is, all elders have governing authority. However, Paul goes on to say "especially those who labor in preaching and teaching." While all elders rule and every elder is to be "able to teach" (I Timothy 3:2), some elders labor in preaching and teaching. The word "labor" indicates a man's means of livelihood. In other words, some elders make their living preaching and teaching. They are paid to dedicate their time and efforts to the Word of God (as Paul commanded Timothy in chapter 4) that God's people might be well-taught. Elders who are set apart for the ministry of the Word are thus known as "ministers" or "teaching elders." All other elders are known as "ruling elders."

Questions

1. What two types of elders are there?
2. What do all elders do?
3. Why do some labor in preaching and teaching?
4. What are they called?

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 to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. I Timothy 4:10

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.

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