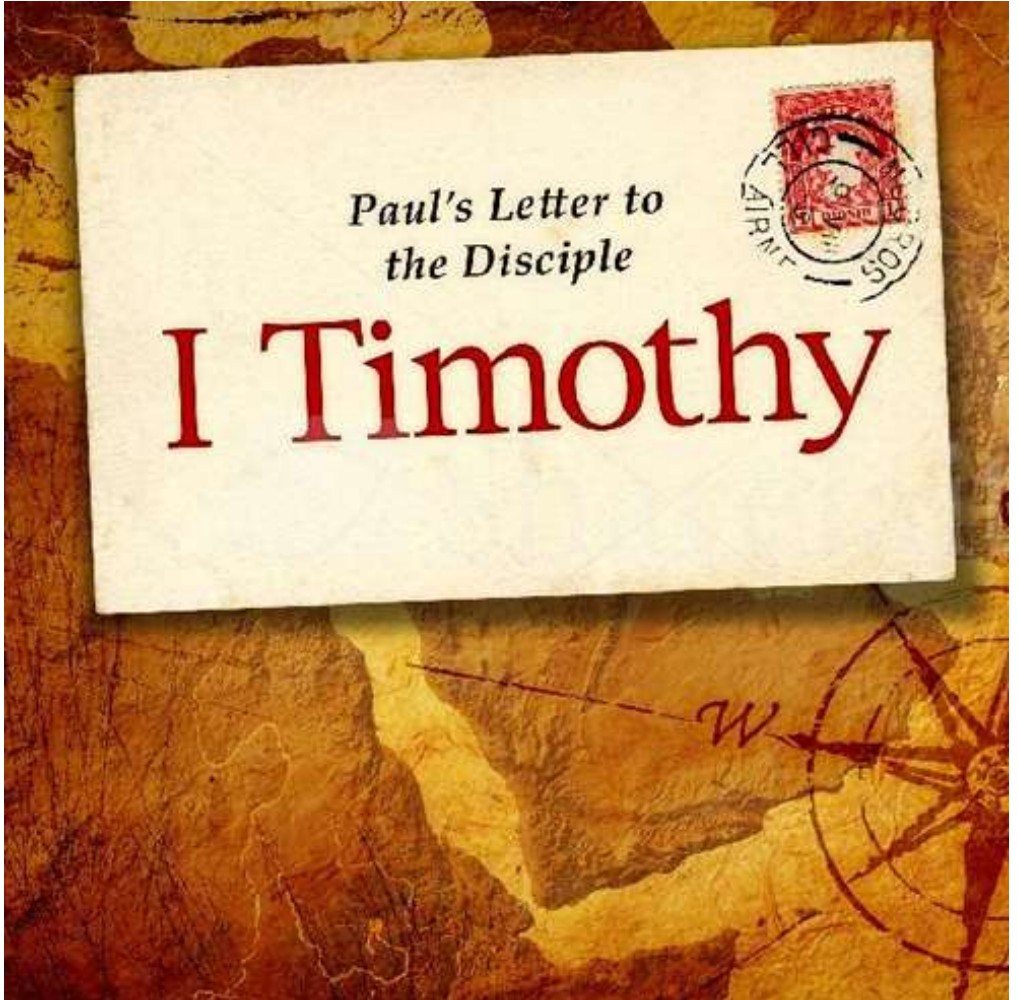


Let's Worship God

28th May-2nd June 2018

1 Timothy



Paul's Letter to
the Disciple

I Timothy



Monday - 1 Timothy 6:12-16 - Fight the Good Fight

At the end of last week, we read of Paul's admonishing Timothy to pursue godliness, faith, love, steadfastness and gentleness. Today, he encourages the young pastor to "fight the good fight of the faith." This is similar to his command in chapter one that Timothy "wage the good warfare," but, this time, Paul uses the word from which we get our English words "agony" and "agonize" to speak of the spiritual warfare in which we are engaged. Obedience to God is always good, because God is good and His commands are good. However, in a fallen world, obedience is an agony - a struggle. It is a struggle against sin within ourselves, against the sinfulness of the world and against Satan and all his servants. Therefore, although Timothy has been granted eternal life by no merit of his own, but only by the free gift of God based on the merits of Jesus Christ, Paul tells him to "lay hold of eternal life," that is grasp it and cling to it (much as Jacob held fast to God in Genesis 32). Timothy is to make the good confession of Christ's Lordship even as Jesus, Himself, did before Pontius Pilate, even as He faced great suffering and His impending death (John 18:33-38).

In a world that is against Christ, being Christ-like, growing in righteousness, and serving Him will be a struggle; it will be agony, and it may bring us great suffering before we receive the glory God has promised for all who are in Christ. Fight the good fight of faith. Struggle; agonize to lay hold of the things that are consistent with one who is born again and who has made the good confession that Jesus Christ is Lord (Romans 10:9).

Questions

1. Why is obedience to God good?
2. Why is obedience to God a struggle?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for strength to fight the good fight of faith.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I Timothy 6:12

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

Paul's Letter to
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I Timothy



Tuesday - 1 Timothy 6:13-16 - The King of Kings

As Paul encourages Timothy to fight the good fight and make the good confession, he reminds him of several attributes of God. First, His Power: In verse 13 he says God is the One "who gives life to all things." He is the Creator and Sustainer of everything. Without Him, the world would never have existed and without Him it cannot continue to exist. Second, His Providence: In verse 14, Paul writes of the promised return of Jesus and in verse 15 he says Christ will appear "at the proper time." All things work according to God's timing, which is an aspect of His Providence, whereby He upholds, directs, disposes and governs all creatures, actions and things (Westminster Confession of Faith, 5.1). Third, His Perfection: The word translated as "blessed" in verse 15 is a Greek term that speaks of being fulfilled, content and at peace. When used to describe God, it speaks of the fact that He lacks nothing; He is Perfect. Fourth, His Sovereignty: In verse 15, Paul calls Him "the only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords." All authority rests in and issues from Him. Every other ruler is under Him. (Note, also, that, in Revelation 17:14 and 19:16, Jesus, specifically, is called "King of kings and Lord of lords." There is no question that Jesus is God). Fifth, His Eternal Being or Immortality: In verse 16, Paul says God "alone has immortality." God, alone, is self-existent, and, therefore, only He has always been and only He will exist forever of His own accord. For anyone or anything else to last forever, God must sustain him, her, or it. Lastly, His Holiness: In verse 16, Paul tells us God "dwells in unapproachable light" and, thus, "no one has ever seen or can see" Him. While God manifests His glory in various ways and has come to us in the Person of Jesus Christ, His divine nature is invisible and even holy angels cannot look upon the fulness of His glory (Isaiah 6:2). In that sense, He is unapproachable and apart from His creation; He is Holy. Rejoice and be confident, since you serve such a wondrous God.

Questions

1. What are some attributes of God?
2. What does it mean that God is King of kings and Lord of lords?
3. What does Paul mean when he says no one has ever seen or can see God?

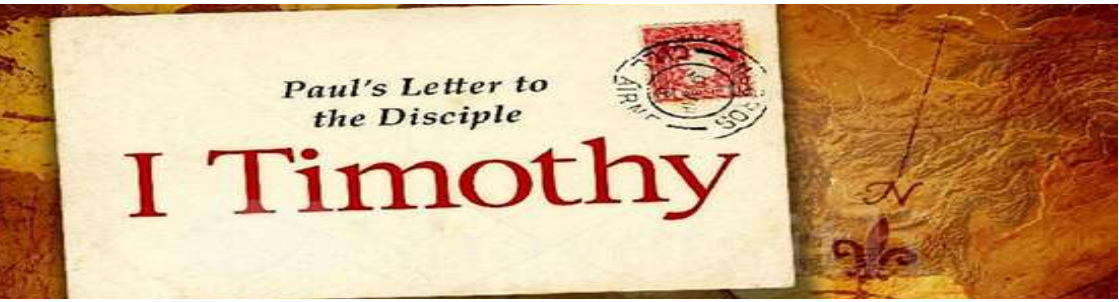
Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that we serve such a glorious God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 1 Timothy 6:12

Praise: Psalm 104:1-8 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Paul's Letter to
the Disciple

I Timothy

Wednesday - 1 Timothy 6:13-16 - The Appearing of Jesus Christ

Yesterday, we considered several attributes of God about which Paul writes in this passage. Today, we concentrate on a fact of which Paul speaks in verse 14 - the promised return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Greek word that is translated (in the ESV) as "appearing" is the word from which we get "epiphany." While God is Spirit and, thus, His divine nature cannot be seen, He has chosen at times to manifest His presence in ways that can be seen by human beings. The Burning Bush of Exodus 3, the Man who wrestled with Jacob in Genesis 32, the Angel of the LORD who appears in Judges 6 and 13, as well as the many other appearances of God recorded in Scripture are epiphanies. The greatest epiphany, so far, is when God not only appeared but incarnated (that is, took on human flesh) in the Person of Jesus Christ. The last and greatest epiphany will occur at the return of Jesus.

Following His resurrection, Jesus ascended to heaven. In Acts 1:11, His disciples who saw Him go are told by angels, "This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven." Other Scriptures, such as I Corinthians 15:51-54, II Corinthians 5:10, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, II Thessalonians 2:1-12 and Revelation 20:11-15 give us more information about Christ's return. From these and other passages we learn that Jesus Christ will return to earth from heaven in the flesh. He will raise the dead and judge everyone. Those who have saving faith in Him and for whose sins Jesus has already paid the penalty will be judged for how well they served Him and will enter into everlasting life - to live forever in glory with Christ in the new heavens and new earth. Everyone else will receive the everlasting punishment of the lake of fire.

Questions

1. What is an epiphany?
2. What will be the last and greatest epiphany?
3. What will happen to those who have faith in Christ?
4. What will happen to everyone else?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we be prepared for Christ's return.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I Timothy 6:12

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

Paul's Letter to
the Disciple



I Timothy

Thursday - 1 Timothy 6:17-19 - Rich in Good Works

Paul speaks, in these verses, about those who are wealthy in earthly things. The Apostle does not condemn earthly riches, but, rather, trusting in them. Timothy is to charge the rich not to be haughty (that is, to think more highly of themselves than of others), nor to set their hopes on earthly wealth. The good things of this world are, indeed, good. They are provided by our good Creator. However, they are fleeting. They will not last into the world to come. Yesterday we saw that those who have faith in Christ will receive everlasting life. II Corinthians 5:10 says we will appear at the judgment seat of Christ to answer for how we served Him in this life. I Corinthians 3:11-15 tells us that those who are in Christ can build upon the foundation of our salvation either with things that will last into the next world or with things that will not make it. Likewise, in Matthew 6:19-20, Jesus teaches that we should be more concerned with laying up treasures in heaven than with storing up treasures on earth. In today's passage, Paul tells Timothy to remind the wealthy that they can lay up treasures in heaven by being rich in good works (as opposed to being rich merely in material wealth). Being generous and ready to share of the things with which God has blessed them is a means of serving Christ, so that Christians may be laying up treasures that will not be destroyed with this world, but which will last into the world to come.

Questions

1. Is it wrong to be wealthy in earthly riches?
2. Is it wrong to set our hopes on earthly riches?
3. Why should we be more concerned to lay up treasures in heaven than on earth?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be setting our hopes on God, alone.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I Timothy 6:12

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

Paul's Letter to
the Disciple



I Timothy

Friday - 1 Timothy 6:20-21 - Guard the Deposit

In yesterday's reading, Paul wrote of those who set their hopes on earthly riches, saying they need to remember to set their hope only on God and to be storing up treasures in heaven through faithful service to Christ. In these final verses of I Timothy, Paul tells his son in the faith to guard the deposit entrusted to him. This is not a deposit of gold or silver, but of Truth. We can tell this is the case by the things with which Paul contrasts the deposit entrusted to Timothy. It is the opposite of "irreverent babble," "contradictions" and "what is falsely called knowledge." By following false teachings, many have strayed from the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, Timothy must be careful to guard that Truth and to make sure he never believes or teaches anything contrary to it.

Paul's charge to Timothy is a command for every Christian, especially those engaged in the ministry of the Word. We must take great care never to believe or teach anything that does not agree with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Do not get caught up in false teachings. Do not stray from God's revealed Truth taught in the Scriptures He inspired. Believe only that which is in accord with the Gospel.

Questions

1. What is the deposit entrusted to Timothy?
2. Why must he guard that deposit?
3. What does it mean to guard that deposit?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we may all guard the Truth of the Gospel.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I Timothy 6:12

Praise: Psalm 49:1-10 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Paul's Letter to
the Disciple

I Timothy



Saturday - 1 Timothy 6:20-21 - Grace Be with You

Over the last several weeks we have briefly examined Paul's first letter to Timothy. As this is a letter of counsel to a pastor, it has touched on many topics. However, there has been an overarching theme of the importance of the Word of God. All doctrines taught in the Church must be founded upon the Scriptures. Nothing that does not agree with the Gospel of salvation by God's grace, alone, working through faith, alone, in Christ Jesus, alone, should be believed or taught. Timothy is to found his ministry on the Word. He must make preaching and teaching the focus of his labors. He is to train his congregation in the knowledge of God's Word to such an extent that they will recognize false teachings and counterfeit gospels for what they really are - the doctrines of demons. These things are of paramount importance, because it is by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, alone, that sinners may be reconciled to our Creator, for it is Christ, alone, who "abolished death and brought immortality to light" (1:10).

We may be tempted to think that a letter personally addressed to a pastor nearly 2000 years ago is not for us. At the most, we may think it is useful as a reference for pastors and other elders in the Church, today. However, when Paul ended this letter, he did so with these words "Grace be with you." In that short benediction, the word "you" is plural. While Paul wrote this letter directly to Timothy, he intended it to be read by all Christians. Certainly, this letter is of particular use to those who hold teaching office in the Church, but every Christian must remember to have a Word-centered life.

Questions

1. Where must any doctrine taught in the Church be found?
2. What kind of doctrines are false teachings and counterfeit gospels?
3. Why does it matter that the word "you" at the end of this letter is plural?

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

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 1 Timothy 6:12

Praise: Psalm 84B:4-6 - 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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