

Sermon Notes

WORSHIP SERVICE - 2.5.2023

THE GOSPEL IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH - PART 1 - DEAR TIMOTHY

I. INTRODUCTION

- The letters of 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus are called the Pastoral Epistles.
 - They are called that because there is much content in those letters about the responsibilities of pastors in how they are to lead and care for the church. But that's not all that is in those letters.
 - Why are we studying the Pastoral Epistles?
 - First, these letters are God's Word and they contain what we need to know pertaining to all matters of the faith and our salvation, and things necessary to know, love, and serve God.
 - Second, it has more to do with the life of a local church than it has to do with pastoral ministry.
 - Third, Every member needs to know what God said about what a church is and how a church must function.
 - Fourth, It's important for every church member to understand what it is that God has called a pastor to do.
 - Fifth, all of the characteristics pertaining to what it means to live a godly life are not just requirements for those in church leadership, they are for all of God's people.
 - Sixth, because false teaching and teachers continue to plague the church of Jesus Christ, it's important that every believer knows how to spot false teaching and teachers.
-
- The series is titled, The Gospel in the Life of the Church.
 - As we study these letters, we will see how the gospel shapes the life of the church.
 - The gospel is to inform all that we are and do as the people of God inside and outside of the local church.

1 Timothy 1:1-2

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

2 To Timothy, my true child in the faith:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

II. INTRO TO 1 TIMOTHY

AUTHOR AND RECIPIENT

- Most of Paul's letters are written to a particular church, but the Pastorals are written to individuals, in this case it is to Timothy, which Paul calls his spiritual son.

TIME AND PLACE

- Most NT and Biblical scholars place the date of this later around the mid 60s.
 - We learn from the letter that Paul left Timothy, one of his ministry team companions, in Ephesus.
 - Timothy was to remain in Ephesus until Paul was able to return.
 - Timothy was functioning more like an apostolic representative than a senior pastor.
-
- Ephesus was a large and influential city of the Roman Empire and Asia Minor.
 - It was a diverse, culturally rich, and economically flourishing city.
 - It was a religiously and spiritually complex city.
 - Ephesus prided itself in its worship of Artemis.
 - Much of the trade and industry of Ephesus was centered around the temple and worship of the goddess Artemis.
 - The cult of Artemis was very influential and they controlled a lot of the commercial activity.
 - It was a completely pagan culture.

- The church of Ephesus was near and dear to Paul's heart.
- He spent a significant amount of time in Ephesus.
- We read in Acts (Acts 19) that on his 3rd missionary journey he spent about three years in Ephesus, preaching and teaching.
- Timothy had accompanied Paul during that time and he later comes back to Ephesus with Paul after Paul is released from his house arrest in Rome.

OCCASION FOR THE LETTER

- Paul charged Timothy with the task of engaging in the challenging work of combating false teaching that had arisen in the church.
- Not only that, he was to lead the church to faithfulness and devotion to Christ in a number of areas and he was to be an example of that faithfulness in the discharge of his calling as a minister of the gospel.
- Men and women in the church needed to be instructed about their roles and conduct in the church gathering. The order of public worship is established.
- Faithful men were to be identified and appointed to the roles of elders and deacons in the church.
- Widows needed to be cared for properly.
- The wealthy are exhorted because of their attitude towards material possessions.
- The main purpose statement is summed up by Paul in his letter.
- 1 Timothy 3:14-15 I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, 15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.
- God's people need to learn how to conduct themselves in the church which is God's house.
- And God's house is orderly.
- And God's people need to know what contributes to the orderly operation of God's house.
- 1 Timothy will help us see what some of that order looks like and how we have to conduct ourselves in accordance with that order.
- Paul also says that the church is also the pillar and buttress of the truth.
- The truth is the gospel, it is apostolic teaching, it is God's Word.
- The foundation upon which the church stands must be taught, transmitted and fiercely protected and defended by every member.

III. DEAR TIMOTHY

PAUL, AN APOSTLE OF THE FAITH

- "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope..."
- In nine of Paul's thirteen NT letters he designates himself an apostle of Christ Jesus.
- The apostles were Christ's representatives. They were with Jesus and were eyewitnesses to Jesus's resurrection prior to his ascension.
- Apostles had Christ's authority to preach the gospel and establish the Church.
- In Paul's greeting he usually adds the reference that his call to apostleship was by the will of God or by the command of God.
- How can Paul be an apostle if he was not an eyewitness of the resurrection with the Twelve?
- Paul says his apostleship is by "command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our Hope."
- By that statement he is saying he is not self-appointed
- He was an apostle of Christ Jesus, chosen by Christ, called, commissioned, equipped, and authorized by Christ.
- Galatians 1:11-12 For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. 12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.
- This is Paul's apostolic credentials—direct revelation of Jesus Christ.
- Paul refers to God and Christ as the agents of his commission.
- Paul assumed the deity of Christ.
- Christ is not only our Savior, he is our hope.
- Paul is referring to the hope of the triumphant and glorious coming of Christ at the end of the age.
- He is an apostle of Christ Jesus, locating his apostleship in the time between Christ's saving and redemptive work and his glorious return.
- His commission during that interval is to spread the apostolic gospel throughout the world.
- The redemptive work he began as our Savior he will bring to completion for his chosen on the last day.
- Why does Paul mention that he is an apostle?
- It was for the benefit of everyone who would hear the message of this letter as it was read in the church.
- The message is of apostolic origin, therefore, it carries apostolic authority and is binding upon the church.

- Those who were causing trouble in the church are to be warned.
- The apostle is under orders from God and is bringing orders from God to the church.
- The method of the transmission of those orders is from God to Paul to Timothy to the church.
- Why does this matter to us?
- This letter is authoritative. We need to submit to its instruction and teaching. It is God's Word to us.

TIMOTHY, PAUL'S TRUE CHILD IN THE FAITH

- To Timothy, my true child in the faith: (2a)
- Timothy was a faithful companion to Paul in his ministry travel.
- He likely came to faith in Christ at a young age. Timothy's grandmother and mother came to faith in Christ during Paul's first missionary journey.
- The apostle met Timothy in Lystra during his second missionary Journey.
- Timothy is mentioned in several of Paul's letters.
- He refers to Timothy as "my true child in the faith."
- That word "true" means "authentic." It is used to speak of legitimate children born in wedlock.
- It is a term of great affection as Timothy is Paul's spiritual son in the faith.
- Timothy's father was Greek and his mother was Jewish.
- Under Jewish law, Timothy would be seen as illegitimate.
- By saying he is Paul's "true child in the faith" he is saying he is legitimate.
- By affirming Timothy's genuineness, Paul is reinforcing Timothy's authority in the church.
- Not only is Paul offering a tender greeting, Timothy is strengthened and the church has to recognize Paul's seal of approval on Timothy.
- Paul speaks fondly of Timothy in several of his letters.
- He is mentioned more frequently in Paul's letters than anyone else.
- He is listed as co-sender in six of Paul's letters.
- Phil. 2:22 But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.
- Timothy was a man of proven character and had a solid reputation and testimony with the church.
- But here's something else we know of Timothy.
- He has some areas in which he needed some strong encouragement from Paul because these areas could be limiting and debilitating factors in Timothy's effectiveness in ministry.
- 1. He was young.
- Perhaps he felt inadequate to the task and responsibility Paul was placing on him because he was young.
- His youthfulness may have been perceived as inexperience or immaturity.
- The reality is that Timothy was probably in his mid to late thirties, possibly early forties when he received this letter.
- To the older people, he would have been seen as young. It would be hard for them to receive counsel from someone with little life experience.
- Paul has to exhort him to not let anyone despise him for his youth (4:12).
- In 2 Tim, he tells him to "flee youthful lusts." (2 Tim 2:22)
- 2. He was timid.
- He needed affirmation, encouragement, and reassurance because of his timidity.
- 2 Tim. 1:6-7 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, 7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
- 1 Cor. 16:10-11 When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am. 11 So let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers.
- 3. He was sickly.
- He had some gastro-intestinal issues.
- Paul tells him, "drink a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments." (5:23)
- Timothy was young, timid, and sickly.
- Those things would be enough to disqualify him from taking charge of the church at Ephesus if we were looking at this from a worldly point of view.
- But Timothy's qualifications are that he is faithful and strong in the gospel.
- This is good news for us!
- God uses the weak and foolish things of this world to shame the strong and the wise (1 Cor. 1:27).
- God can use you! His qualifications are faithfulness to Him.
- Be strong in the gospel and you will be a vessel God can always use for His glory!

WHAT UNITES US IN THE FAITH

- “Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.” (2b)
 - What binds Paul and Timothy and the believers in Ephesus and all of us who are in Christ Jesus?
 - What unites us is our common share in the grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - The Grace of God—God’s kindness expressed to us who were wholly undeserving, guilty, rebellious, and condemned.
 - The Mercy of God—God’s pity on us who were wretched, poor, naked, and blind and unable to rescue ourselves from our filth and sin.
 - The Peace of God—God’s reconciliation of all of us who were separated from him due to our hostility and rebellion towards him. Now we have peace with God, no longer enemies of God.
 - The source of grace, mercy, and peace are from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - The Triune God extends his grace and favor to undeserving rebel sinners and makes his enemies his friends through the atoning work of Christ.
-
- You don’t deserve his grace.
 - You don’t deserve his mercy.
 - You don’t deserve his peace.
 - But praise God that Christ Jesus came to save sinners!
-
- Don’t just focus on the flaws of the church.
 - See the beauty of the church that has received the grace, mercy, and peace of God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

APPLICATION AND REFLECTION

In light of today’s message....

- What did I learn about the gospel?
- How can I apply what I learned about the gospel to my life?
- With whom can I share the gospel this week?