

# 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy

Fall 2024

Week 4 - Timothy 1: 12 - 20

## “What “Right” looks like in a Church according to Paul

- Sound Doctrine
- A Place of Grace
  - Prayer (for everyone especially leaders)
  - Godly Elders and Deacons
  - Teaching the Bible
  - Caring for People
  - Pursuing Godliness

## 1 Timothy 1: 12 - 20

*“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

*Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.*

## Background –

- ❖ Section of passage is about Paul’s Gratitude towards God.
- ❖ Paul’s chief aim was to make God in Christ known to all people, so that all might honor and glorify Him as the only God and their eternal King
- ❖ Beginning in verse 12, Paul begins his own testimony of how he came to know Christ and the wonderful benefits of God’s mercy and Grace so that nobody would feel completely condemned
- ❖ Acts chapter 9 recounts his conversion
- ❖ Paul is very clear that he was a blasphemer, a persecutor a violent man, the “Worst of the sinners but that the point of what Paul was communicating.
- ❖ **What is the main point that Paul is trying to communicate to Timothy here?**
- ❖ **How did Paul behave prior to knowing Christ?**
- ❖ **How do the words mercy, faith, and grace contrast Paul’s behavior before his conversion and knowing Christ?**

- ❖ Paul never got over the fact that he had been determined to destroy the Christian church, he doesn't use the opportunity to revisit his guilt, but someone who is grateful and thankful that our merciful God transformed him from a persecutor to an apostle
- ❖ **How do we talk about our own thankfulness for God's grace on our lives?**
- ❖ Paul's past did not disqualify him from serving the Lord. He says "this is who I was, and this is who I am today. **Just a simple testimony of God's grace and mercy in Paul's life.**
- ❖ **Does our past life, our sins, disqualify us from serving the Lord?**
- ❖ However, we will not enjoy this peace with God if we grow careless and fall from faith.
- ❖ Polytheism (having many gods) was practiced in the Roman Empire. Paul is writing this and saying there's only one true and living God and he is immortal, invisible, and the King eternal.
- ❖ In verse 18 Paul begins speaking about prophecies and how God's hand was upon him, and He was going to use Paul in a mighty way.
- ❖ Paul's saying the same thing to Timothy. Prophecies were made about you so be true to those words, and by following them you may fight the good fight.
- ❖ Our Christian Walk, the journey of following Christ is compared to fighting the good fight. We are in a battle and it not just a cultural war, but a growing hostility towards Christians and Christianity in general.
- ❖ **What is the Christian Walk?**
- ❖ **What does it mean to fight the good fight?**
- ❖ **Is this a Physical or Spiritual fight?**
- ❖ Verse 19 and Paul writes "*hold on to the faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith*"
- ❖ In verse 20 Paul specifically names Hymenaeus and Alexander and says he "*handed them over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.*"
- ❖ **What is Excommunication?**
- ❖ **Why did Paul excommunicated Hymenaeus and Alexander?**

### **Additional Points to Ponder – 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1: 12 - 20**

1. Why is 1 Timothy 1:15 one of the most comforting passages of the Bible?
2. Why was Paul "shown Mercy" according to 1:13?
  - a. What implications, if any does that have on evangelism?

3. What kind of words describe people behavior and lives before knowing Christ?
  - a. Are they similar descriptions Paul used?
4. What strategies do you use to consciently depend on God's strength and not out own?
5. What happens when we don't rely on the power of the Holy Spirit?

## Outline of 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy

- I. Salutation (1:1–2)
- II. The charge concerning false teachers (1:3–4)
  - a. The charge to preserve the purity of the Gospel (1:5–11)
  - b. Two examples (1:12–20)
- III. Instructions concerning pastoral ministry (2:1–3:16)
  - a. Public worship (2:1–15)
    - i. The duty of prayer (2:1–7)
    - ii. The position of men in public worship (2:8–10)
    - iii. The position of women in public worship (2:11–15)
  - b. The qualifications for public ministry (3:1–13)
    - i. Overseers (or pastors) (3:1–7)
    - ii. Deacons (3:8–13)
    - iii. The center and substance of public ministry (3:14–16)
- IV. Opposing false teachers (4:1–16)
  - a. False teachers described (4:1–5)
  - b. The pastor's work against false teachers (4:6–16)
- V. Pastoral ministry with various groups (5–6:2)
  - a. Older and younger, widows, elders, and slaves (5:1–25)
  - b. Concluding exhortations (6:3–19)
  - c. Reiteration of Charge (6:20–21)

## References:

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