

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

We finished the Book of Exodus last week.

This week we will be starting a new book. We will be in 1 Timothy.

Turn your bibles to 1 Timothy.

Most of you have probably never heard the name Lynsi Snyder.

In 2017 she became the youngest billionaire in the nation,

She didn't invent anything – she didn't marry and divorce Bill Gates – and she didn't win any contest.

She became a billionaire because of two reasons: Someone died and gave her an incredible inheritance and she accepted it.

In 2010 she became the owner and president of In-N-Out Burger.

Now, because of the work of her father and grandfather (and many other men and women in her family), she is part of a wonderful enterprise that, day-in and day-out proclaims the Gospel through their packaging.

I don't know if you have ever noticed, but In-N-Out milkshakes each have Proverbs 3:5 referenced on the bottom.

Soda cups bear John 3:16.

The water cups say John 14:6.

The hamburger and cheeseburger wrappers reference Revelation 3:20,
the double-double paper lists Nahum 1:7 and the french fry trays are labeled with
Proverbs 24:16.

The thing about Lynsi is that she was not a very good person.

In fact, she is very open to share the details of her life before she surrendered her life to Jesus Christ, it was during this time in her life that she felt more alone and more worthless than ever, God was there to intervene and to save and now she's been transformed and is a display of grace for the world to see.

She was a drunk and a drug addict who went through three divorces but, now has been transformed into a woman who publicly proclaims the transformative power of the Gospel.

In our study this morning, we are going to see another individual who experienced the transformative power of the gospel – the model example for us to follow – Apostle Paul.

Let's pray...

So, before we begin our study through 1 Timothy – I want to provide a little background so that you understand the reason for the letter to Timothy.

1 Timothy is the first of three letters known as the Pastoral Epistles.

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Titus

They are also the last three letters or epistles that Paul ever wrote before he was killed.

Timothy was a young disciple that joined Paul during his second and third missionary journeys.

That is why Paul referring to him in many of the epistles that he wrote to the early church.

Now, one of the churches that Paul established during his journeys was the Church in Ephesus.

And because Timothy had served faithfully alongside Paul, Paul makes him the overseer of the Church in Ephesus.

Now, Timothy wasn't simply the pastor of a single church, he oversaw the churches and groups of believers in Ephesus.

It was his responsibility to make sure that true doctrine was being preached to the believers in Ephesus.

Turn with me to Acts 20,

Here Paul is saying his goodbyes to the elders of the Church in Ephesus.

[Act 20:25-31 NKJV] 25 "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. 26

"Therefore I testify to you this day that I [am] innocent of the blood of all [men].

27 "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. 28

"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He

purchased with His own blood. 29 "For I know this, that after my departure

savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 "Also from

among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the

disciples after themselves. 31 "Therefore watch, and remember that for three

years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

So Paul tells the elders that some of them were going to deceive the flock by teaching them false teachings.

And that is exactly what has occurred in Ephesus as we will see.

So Paul writes this letter to Timothy to guide him in correcting some of the bad behavior that was occurring in Ephesus and also on how to prevent these false teachers from gaining another foothold in the church.

[1Ti 1:1-20 NKJV] 1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope,

Paul begins his letter to Timothy by first introducing himself as the writer and then listing his credentials.

An apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ our hope.

Timothy knew who Paul was – he spent years alongside him.

The reason that Paul gives him credentials is twofold.

First of all, even though the letter was addressed to Timothy, it was intended to be read out loud to the churches in Ephesus.

Those who were giving Timothy trouble needed to remember that their pastor was there because God had put him there, for Paul's authority was given by God.

Secondly, the credentials would bring encouragement to Timothy by reminding him of the importance of the work that he was called to do.

I had you make a note of the word apostle –

The word means ambassador – and as believers, we are ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

We are all to be “ones who are sent out” (Acts 1:8).

We are all to be preachers of the good news (Romans 10:15).

But Paul’s credential as an ambassador is that he was one of the few that were chosen for the laying of the foundation of the church.

2 To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, [and] peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through the scriptures, we read that Timothy’s mother was Jewish and his father was Greek.

Paul refers to Timothy as a true son in the faith either because he led him to faith in Jesus or because Paul is expressing his confidence in Timothy’s integrity and faithfulness to the truth.

In other words – Timothy is the real deal – he is not an illegitimate Christian.

Turn with me to Philippians 2,

[Phi 2:19-22 NKJV] 19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. 20 For I have no

one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. 21 For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. 22 But you know his proven character, that as a son with [his] father he served with me in the gospel.

Paul disciplined Timothy.

Timothy had Paul's spiritual DNA from the time he spent with him.

And that is why Paul can refer to him as a true son in the faith.

I think one of the things that most of us forget about the Great Commission is that Jesus didn't simply say go out and evangelize to the world.

His command was, "make disciples of all nations" Matthew 28:19-20

And one of the questions we need to ask ourselves is, "Who has my spiritual DNA"?

Are we purposely spending time with others to share Jesus and life together?

3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia--remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, 4 nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.

From our text here in verse three, it appears that Timothy wanted out of Ephesus.

And there could be several reasons why he may have wanted to quit.

Maybe he started to question his own calling?

The people are not responding to me. Half of them are doing whatever they want and the other half are following these other guys that are preaching heresies – maybe I am not the right guy to lead them???

Maybe he underestimated the difficulties of the ministry?

People have the misconception that ministry is easy.

All I have to do is stand on a street corner with a bible in my hand and people are going to flock to me and in two weeks, I will have a congregation of hundreds.

And all I have to do is preach 45 minutes on Wed night and 45 minutes on Sunday morning and I have the rest of the week to do whatever I want.

That's not the way ministry works.

When I started to come down here – someone offered me some words of encouragement – “they said, Herb, Nogales and Rio Rico – that is very hard ground.

Many have tried and were unsuccessful”

And I responded by first saying,

Thank you for the encouragement.

But my bible says that nothing is impossible with God.

And being very hard ground simply means that He will get more glory for the work that is done here.

Other people believe that Timothy may have also been a little timid or probably even had a few underlying health issues that might have contributed to him wanting to leave Ephesus.

So Timothy wanted to leave and Paul tells him right away – Timmy, you can leave.

There is work to be done in Ephesus.

You need to **“charge”** – this is a military term in the original Greek. It means to give an order.

To command. To announce

Timothy wasn't to simply present the option of correct doctrine to these false teachers - He was to command it like a military officer.

“Timothy – you need to command those that are teaching false doctrine – those that are deviating from the truth – that they need to stop immediately.

What were some of the things that they were teaching –

Fables and genealogies

They were teaching doctrines that were full of meaningless distractions.

During this time, Gnosticism started to infiltrate the church.

The word Gnosticism comes from the word “to know”

So for all your friends that claim to be agnostic – they are simply claiming to be ignorant “I don’t know”, “I can’t make up my mind”

And one of the things that the Gnostics were teaching in the early church was that salvation was based on this secret “knowledge” that could be passed on for a certain price.

They wanted to make salvation complicated.

When the truth is that salvation is not complicated.

Jesus died for our sins.

We are saved by faith in His death for us.

That’s it.

Jesus said,

(John 3:16 NKJV) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, [from] a good conscience, and [from] sincere faith,

I asked you to make a note of “the commandment”

Is Paul referring to the Law of Moses – no

The word that Paul used back in verse three for “charge” is the same root word as the word that is used for commandment here in verse 5.

Paul is saying that the goal or “purpose” of his command to Timothy to stop these bad teachers, was to produce “love”.

Not just any love – a pure, clean, genuine love from a pure heart.

The word that is used here for love is the word agape – an unconditional love.

Just like the “pure heart”, a good conscience is a source of true agape.

What is our motive?

Why am I doing things that seem to look and sound like “love”?

Am I wanting something from the other person, or am I wanting to serve them?

Because our motive should be to simply serve in love.

6 from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, 7 desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

These false teachers, instead of preaching sound doctrine, they were simply babbling.

They would look back at Genesis 5 and Genesis 10 and come up with all these weird interpretations regarding the genealogies that were listed.

And Paul says in verse seven that the false teachers were clueless of the things that they spoke.

8 But we know that the law [is] good if one uses it lawfully,

When we studied the book of Galatians – we learned that the purpose of the law to be our tutor – to show us our sin – to show us that we are in need of a Savior – to point us to Jesus Christ.

So the law does have its purpose – that is why we spent all those weeks going through Exodus and why we study the Old Testament as well.

There are some who say, we are no longer under the law – so why bother with the Old Testament

The problem is that one will hamper their understanding of the New Testament because the New Testament is built upon the foundation of the Old Testament.

9 knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for [the] lawless and insubordinate, for [the] ungodly and for sinners, for [the] unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there

is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, 11 according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.

When we studied the book of Exodus, God gave Moses two tablets.

One tablet had all the commandments that had to do with man's relationship with God.

No other gods.

No carved images.

Don't take God's name in vain.

Honor God on the Sabbath.

The other tablet had all the commandments that had to do with man's relationship with man.

Honor parents

Don't murder

Don't commit adultery

Don't steal

Don't lie

Don't covet



CALVARY
Santa Cruz

Later on Jesus said that the entire Law could be summed up with:

1) Love God (first tablet).

2) Love others (second tablet).

Paul gives Timothy here a list of sins and if we look at them individually, we will see that they fit each of the Ten Commandments –

This is who the Law was intended to for – to show man his sinfulness and his need for a Savior.

This is why God gave us the Law, to show us our sin.

The Law gives us the bad news, that we are all sinners. That is the diagnosis.

The Gospel gives us the good news that Jesus died for sinners. That is the remedy for our condition.

He died to take our place.

He died to pay for our sins.

We can have our sins forgiven and be right with God if we will turn to Jesus.

If someone doesn't have the diagnosis – they don't know that they are sinners and are on a path to judgment – then they will not have a need for the remedy.

That is the purpose of the law.

12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting [me] into the ministry, 13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did [it] ignorantly in unbelief.

Apostle Paul was entrusted with the gospel because Jesus enabled Paul.

Paul wasn't put into the ministry because somehow he had proven himself worthy to be entrusted with the gospel.

Paul was a bad man.

He persecuted the early church.

He hated Jesus Christ and all of His followers.

He was prideful, a zealot and he even was responsible for the death of some of the followers of Jesus.

God enabled Paul because He saw that Paul was worthy of God's trust.

He counted Paul faithful.

Faithfulness made Paul ready to be used by God.

And that is what we are called to church – we are called to faithfulness.

To be readily available to be used by God –

And if we do this, then God will provide the enabling.

Paul's past did not disqualify him from serving God.

God's mercy and grace were enough to cover his past and enable him to serve God.

We should never feel that our past makes us unable to be used by God.

14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

In the previous verse, Paul made the statement that he did everything he did out of ignorance.

Church, it was not Paul's ignorance that saved him; it was the exceeding abundant grace of God that saved him.

As horrible as Paul's sins were, God's grace and forgiveness was even greater.

15 This [is] a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

Throughout the pastoral epistles, Paul uses the phrase a faithful saying five times.

You guys can look them up – I am simply going to give you the bible references.

1 Tim 1:15

1 Tim 3:1

1 Tim 4:8-9

Titus 3:8

2 Tim 2:11-13

These faithful sayings were taught in the early church.

The early church didn't have the luxury of having Bibles, much of what they were taught was through word of mouth.

So this first faithful saying was the gospel in 10 words

Let's repeat them out loud -

that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners

What kind of sinners did the Lord come to save? Well, Paul uses himself as the best example.

But using himself as an example he shows here how powerful the Gospel of Jesus Christ is.

A man like Paul is not only loved by God, he is savable.

But even then the Lord doesn't quit.

Paul wasn't just saved, he was transformed.

He was a murderer and a terrorist, a blasphemer, full of vicious arrogance but through God's redemption he became a planter of churches, a writer of Scriptures, a victorious martyr.

Because of Jesus Christ's work, the greatest example of sin became the greatest example of the work of the cross.

And none of it had to do with what Paul accomplished.

Notice his careful wording. He doesn't say, "of whom I was chief."

He says, "oh whom I am chief."

Paul recognized he was still unworthy, still a sinner, but he accepted that he had been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb and therefore God was able to transform his life and change him through and through.

Church, we are all still sinners.

I have always liked the illustration of our sin compared to an onion.

At first, we peel out the outer layer, the bigger sin in our life.

And once we are freed from the outer layer, we notice that there is a smaller layer underneath and another and another and another.

And we will continue to be sinners – continue to be peeling back layers until we are with Jesus.

16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

Paul is not making the claim that there was no one that was saved before him.

What Paul is saying here is that he is the model prototype of what it means for God's grace to save and transform a person - even the worst person in all the world.

Christ, who came to save sinners, was going to prove that truth and put it on display through Paul, who would become a living, breathing example of God's love, mercy and longsuffering.

If God can save and then use someone like Paul, then God can do the same for me and you.

Who are the Paul's in today's world?

You and me.

[1Co 11:1 NKJV] 1 Imitate me, just as I also [imitate] Christ.

Remember the backdrop of his statements in 1 Timothy 1:15-16:

He's telling Timothy (and us by extension) that this is a saying and a principle we are to anchor onto and build from.

Christ came into the world to save sinners.

It was a personal work, a costly work. But it's the most important work ever done.

And Paul's example shows us not only that any person can be saved (praise the Lord!), but that salvation is not just something that happens the moment after we take our last breath. Salvation is for every day of our lives as we are put on display by God so that others might also be redeemed.

Christ came to show us mercy and to show mercy in us.

To demonstrate that anyone can be saved and everyone who is saved should be used by God to continue the work.

Amen

Let's pray...



CALVARY
Santa Cruz