

1 Timothy
The Gospel, The Church, and Godliness
The Bad News Before the Good News
1 Timothy 1:1-11

- 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus are known as pastoral epistles because they were written to Timothy and Titus who were tasked by the Apostle Paul to establish and oversee churches in Ephesus and Crete, respectively. Why should we give attention to these letters if we are not church leaders?
- Read 1 Timothy 1:1-11. Questions? How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through God’s Word in the sermon and just now as you read the text?
- Paul and Timothy had a unique relationship. Timothy was in his late teens or early twenties when Paul recruited him to be a part of a team that was taking the gospel all over the Roman Empire. Read Acts 16:1-5 and think of how this young man must have felt. Then think about how he must have felt when Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison! Even though Timothy seems to have been somewhat fearful (see in notes), he persevered in the power of the Lord.
 - Who played a key role in your spiritual formation? What did they do for you and/or teach you?
 - Read 2 Timothy 2:1-2. Is there anyone you are helping to grow in his/her faith and walk with the Lord?
 - GCC had a very successful discipleship ministry this past fall and we will begin again in a few weeks. Would you be willing to participate in, or lead, a discipleship group?
 - For more information about discipleship groups:
<https://graceccnc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3399403>
- Verse 5: “The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”
 - Much of this text is direct and might even feel a bit harsh. How is it loving?
 - Stop and pray together as a group to receive these gifts from God – love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

- The Apostle Paul makes no apologies for the life to which the church (individuals within the church of course – but the church) is called, even though it clashes with the culture. Discuss the challenges of living as followers of Christ and then pray for the Father to give you (as individuals and as the church) the power of the Holy Spirit as you live for Jesus and seek to glorify him.

Study Notes

Thoughts and Quotes from the Sermon

Why 1 Timothy?

1 Timothy 1:3 As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine . . .

3:15 if I delay (in coming to you), 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.

6:20 O Timothy, guard the deposit (the truth of the gospel) entrusted to you.

Timothy was likely a teenager or young adult when he first met the Apostle Paul (Acts 16:1). Imagine Timothy watching Paul and Silas being beaten and thrown in jail in Philippi on one of Paul's first stops after Timothy joined him. Timothy was likely terrified as he witnessed, first-hand, the cost for faithful service. There is indication that Timothy struggled with fearfulness (2 Timothy 1:6-8; 1 Corinthians 16:10-11). Even so, he persevered and functioned as Paul's emissary in many instances (1 Thessalonians 3:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:17; Philippians 2:19-24).

Timothy would have been somewhere between 30-35 years of age when Paul wrote to him in Ephesus. That makes 1 Timothy 4:12 rather interesting! More when we get there in the series.

There is a sense in 2 Timothy 4:1-8 that Paul, knowing he would soon be executed, was passing the torch of the preaching and protection of the gospel to Timothy.

Edmond Hiebert Timothy's name occurs 17 times in ten different Pauline epistles, more often than any other companion of Paul.

1 Timothy was likely written after Paul's first imprisonment. Scholars believe that Paul was imprisoned twice. We read about Paul's first imprisonment near the end of the book of Acts. Paul had a great deal of freedom to conduct ministry under house arrest. Colossians, Philippians, Philemon, and Ephesians were all written during Paul's first imprisonment. We know that 2 Timothy was written from prison, but the circumstances were far different as Paul awaited certain execution. It is speculated that 1 Timothy and Titus were written after Paul was released from his first imprisonment. It is entirely possible that Paul and Timothy were together in Ephesus tending to church matters and Paul left Timothy there while he moved on to minister elsewhere.

Could it be that the false teaching was coming from elders? Paul had warned the Ephesian elders that false doctrine could arise within their group – Acts 20:28-30.

Three categories of the law:

1. **The moral law** – the 10 commandments and other laws regulating behavior
2. **The civil law** – laws governing God's people in the nation of Israel
3. **The ceremonial law** – regulating sacrifices and feast days, all of which pointed to Christ

Three uses of the OT law for the NT believer:

1. **The law shows us our sin** – it acts like a mirror
2. **The law restrains evil** – it is good for society
3. **The law is a moral guide for believers** – the OT guides our thinking about life in general, especially life in Christ

Application from the Sermon

1. We must keep the main thing, the main thing
2. Scripture must inform the way we live
3. The gospel is not about what we do, but about what Jesus has done and what has been given to us

Scripture Associated with the Message

1 Corinthians 13:13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; **but the greatest of these is love.**

Colossians 3:14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

John 13:35 By this all people will know that you are my (Jesus') disciples, if you have love for one another."

Matthew 22:34 But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." Make sure to keep these in order – love God first, *then* love your neighbor.