

1 Timothy
The Gospel, Godliness, and The Church
A Testimony of God's Grace
1 Timothy 1:12-20

- Read 1 Timothy 1 – the whole chapter. Notice that verses 18-20 go more with verses 1-11 than they do 12-17. Try to see the whole rather than separate parts that have been patched together.
- Our focus will be on verses 12-20, especially verses 12-17. Does Paul's description of himself "before Jesus" in verses 12-14 resonate with you? How?
 - Why must one understand his/her sin before trusting Jesus?
 - How do you explain this to one who has been saved as long as he/she can remember?
 - Is an acknowledgement of your sin a necessary component of your testimony? Why or why not?
- Slowly work through verses 15-17 and bask in the blessings that are ours in Christ.
- Pray that God will give you opportunity to share your testimony this week, whether it be with believers or unbelievers.
- If you have time, think about the three points of application from the sermon:
 - The more you care about God's honor and glory, the less you will care about what the world thinks of you
 - The more you move toward the God of 1 Timothy 1:15-17, the easier it will be to move away from the three enemies that would destroy you – the world, the flesh, and the devil
 - The more you love the truth of the gospel, the easier it will be for you to stand against false teaching and false doctrine
- Pray for your missionary, who likely shares his/her testimony often. Pray that God will bring much fruit, and fruit that lasts from her/his ministry.

Study Notes

Thoughts and Quotes from the Sermon

From the sermon The grace and mercy of God transformed Paul into a radically different man. In what ways has the Lord radically changed your life since you first put your trust in Jesus? How tight or how loose are you with the truth? Do you react to what others say to you, or do you respond? Are you quick to forgive or are you very slow to let go of a grudge? Are you more inclined to believe and trust God's Word when you read it or hear it preached, or are you quick to doubt passages that are in direct conflict with the culture? All these questions should show the contrast in your life before and after Jesus.

What about the difference in your life between last Sunday and today? What about last month and this month? Are we growing, or are we taking it all for granted? The problem with some of the believers at Ephesus was that though they had begun well as followers of Christ, lately they had allowed themselves to be persuaded by arguments about God and humanity and how this life should be lived by purveyors of a false gospel. These lies sounded good because they sounded liberating or reasonable or down-right fun – but they were deadly. Paul hated false gospel. So should we!

Jonathan Edwards As I read the words of 1 Timothy 1:17, there came into my soul and as it were diffused through it, a sense of the glory of the divine being; a new sense, quite different from anything I ever experienced before. Never any words of Scripture seemed to me as these words did. I thought with myself, how excellent a Being that was and how happy I should be, if I might enjoy that God, and be wrapt up to God in heaven, and be, as it were, swallowed up in him.

John Calvin Almighty God, whose creation, and the work of whose hands we are – grant us to know that we exist and move in you alone, so that we may submit ourselves unto you, not merely being directed by your secret providence, but showing ourselves your willing and obedient followers, as it becomes sons. Thus, may we endeavor to glorify your name in this world till we arrive at the enjoyment of that blessed heritage, which is laid up for us in heaven, through Christ our Lord.