

Sermon Notes for October 11, 2015

**Sermon Series On I Timothy
For The Love Of The Church
“Worshipping God Because Of His Grace”
I Timothy 1:15-17**

Introduction

A. We Continue Our Sermon Series On The Book Of I Timothy

1. a book written by the Apostle Paul about how the Biblical church is to operate
2. no matter how smart and wise spiritual leaders may think they are about what “they” think a church should be;
 - a. we are called to seek God’s plan; God’s method, based on His Word
 - b. it is my view that the only “method” that will last in the church will be our method laid down in the Word of God
 1. yes, churches may experience growth; for a season
 2. however, the only real growth that will **last** will be Biblical growth
 - a. stories of churches that have grown only to have a crisis and see the church fall apart
 - b. my experience in consulting a church in our denomination
 1. the Pastor had his own view
 2. the church today is 1/3 of the size it was when he got there
3. in this study, we want to see what the Apostle Paul thought was vital for the church to believe

B. Today, We Continue Part Two Of The Apostle Paul’s Discussion Of The Grace Of God

Vs. 13 – “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.”

1. Paul loved, preached and lived the grace of God
2. **PAUL LIVED THE GRACE OF GOD BECAUSE HE WAS A WALKING, BREATHING, RECEIPIENT OF IT**
 - a. he had been guilty of blasphemy
 1. against God’s people
 2. and God Himself
 - b. he had persecuted Christians
 1. he had arrested Christians
 2. and had participated in their death
 - c. he had pursued Christians
 1. Paul hunted down and arrested Christians
 2. Paul hated Christians as much as Hitler hated Jews

3. **BUT, GOD HAD MERCY ON PAUL**

Vs. 13-14 – “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.**”

- a. DESPITE PAUL’S GREVIOUS SINS;
 1. GOD NOT ONLY SAVED THE APOSTLE PAUL
 2. BUT, HE CALLED PAUL INTO THE MINISTRY OF THE GOSPEL!
 - b. how do you EXPLAIN a God who:
 1. not only does **not** punish Paul for his blatant sins against Christians
 2. but, **ALSO** called him into the ministry!
 3. **THERE IS NO OTHER EXPLANATION OTHER THAN THE GRACE OF GOD!**
 - c. like Paul, we, as believers, need to truly understand what God “could have done to us”
 1. judged us
 2. condemned us
 3. and sent us to hell, forever!
 - d. BUT, like Paul, God “graced us.”
 1. He saved us, DESPITE OUR SINS
 2. **how can you NOT worship a God like that?**
3. Let us look, once again, at how appreciative the Apostle Paul was for God’s grace in his own life

I. The TRUTH OF GOD’S GRACE

A. The ACCURACY OF GOD’S GRACE

1. Paul’s saying is **true**:

Vs. 15a – “Here is a **trustworthy** saying”

 - a. in this text, Paul says that the statement that he is about to make is absolutely faithful and true
 - b. Paul uses a greek word, pistis, that is used to describe:
 1. ultimate truth
 2. something that is worthy of trust
 3. that what you are have total confidence in
 - c. in a sense, Paul is saying; **what I am about to share with you is “true truth”**
2. Paul’s saying is **total**:

Vs. 15a – “Here is a **trustworthy saying**”

 - a. the next word that Paul uses is the word; “saying,” by using the greek word; **logos**
 1. to the greek mind, “the logos” was seen as the unseen force that connected all of time and space
 2. it would be much like “The Force” as seen in the Star Wars movies

- b. in other words; what Paul was saying was; what your are about to hear is:
 - 1. THE WORD!
 - 2. THE STATEMENT!
 - 3. THE WORD THAT THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE CAN TRUST.

B. The ACCEPTANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

1. this is the **worthy truth**

Vs. 15a – “Here is a trustworthy saying that **deserves** full acceptance.”

- a. Paul continues to emphasize the importance of what he was about to say by saying that we must “do something” with this truth
- b. the word that Paul used: “deserves,” is the greek word; axios
 - 1. it speaks of something that is worthy because of “its weight”
 - 2. so, what Paul is about to share “is heavy”
- c. my mother’s cancer diagnosis
 - 1. when the doctor share about her diagnosis, it was “heavy”
 - 2. and, it was heavy because it was true
- d. ACCORDING TO THE APOSTLE PAUL, THERE IS NO HEAVIER TRUTH THAN WHAT HE WAS ABOUT TO SHARE

2. this is the **whole truth**

Vs. 15a – “Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves **full** acceptance.”

- a. Paul uses the greek word; pas
 - 1. each, every, all
 - 2. everything; whatsoever
- b. Paul is saying that what they are about to hear is to believed totally
 - 1. not parts of the whole
 - 2. not portions of the saying
 - 3. BUT EVERY SINGLE WORD

3. this is the **welcoming truth**

Vs. 15a – “Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full **acceptance.**”

- a. Paul uses the greek word: apodoche
 - 1. acceptance
 - 2. reception
 - 3. to accept what is offered
 - 4. to take with the hand; to grant access to
 - 5. something that is not to be refused
- b. so, not only is the person to **believe** that the words that Paul was about to say were wholly true
- c. therefore, the person who hears this truth is to **accept** it as wholly true

4. therefore, based on Paul’s “descriptive words” that he uses to prepare the reader for his upcoming saying, Paul did not give the reader the option of refusing it:

- a. it was truthful
- b. it was worthy
- c. it was total
- d. **it was to be received**

II. The TOTALITY OF GOD'S GRACE

A. The PERSPECTIVE OF GOD'S GRACE

1. according to these particular words that the Apostle Paul used in verse 15, this was **THE STATEMENT** that Paul wanted his audience to hear.
2. **AND**, this was not only **THE STATEMENT** for his audience; this was the statement that the whole world needed to hear
 - a. this was not merely a statement that only Jews needed to hear
 - b. nor, was this a statement that only Christians needed to hear
 - c. **THIS WAS A STATEMENT THAT THE WHOLE WORLD NEEDED TO HEAR!**
3. **based on Paul's introductory comments; THIS MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT STATEMENT EVER MADE!!!**

B. The PURPOSE OF GOD'S GRACE

Vs. 15b – “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”

1. “**Christ Jesus**”
 - a. the anointed one;
 - b. the Messiah
 - c. the one and only one who was sent from heaven by His heavenly Father
2. “**came into the world**”
 - a. Christ Jesus left His perfect place in heaven and came to this earth
 - b. it was not enough for Christ Jesus to forgive mankind from heaven; He **had** to come to this earth in order to inhabit a body; just like our bodies.
3. “**to save**”
 - a. **THIS WAS THE ULTIMATE REASON THAT CHRIST JESUS CAME TO THIS EARTH**
 1. Christ Jesus did not ultimately come to this earth to be a model or an example
 2. Christ Jesus did not ultimately come to this earth to show man how to live
 3. Christ Jesus did not ultimately come to this earth to heal the sick and feed the poor
 - b. **Philip Ryken – “Christianity is the only religion in the world that is for bad people.** In one way or another, every other religion says people can become good enough for God. But what if we are not good enough? What then? What if we really are the worst of sinners? Then Christianity is the only religion that offers real hope. **If we are wretched sinners, then Christianity is our only option.”**
4. “**sinners**”
 - a. Scripture does not allow us to say that people are not sinners
 - b. for, if we say that people on this earth are not sinners, then Christ Jesus came to this earth for no purpose.

- c. but, Scripture **CLEARLY** says that THE REASON THAT CHRIST JESUS came to this earth was TO SAVE SINNERS! AND EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET IS A SINNER!

C. The PERSONIFICATION OF GOD’S GRACE

Vs. 15 – “Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--**of whom I am the worst.**”

1. this gospel was for Paul; as a sinner

- a. Paul saw himself as the worst of sinners.
 - 1. the **comprehension of Paul’s sin**
 - a. according to Paul, compared to every single person on the planet, he saw himself as the worst sinner who had ever lived
 - b. the worst
 - 1. greek protos;
 - a. from where we get the English word; prototype
 - b. according to Paul, if you looked in the dictionary for sinner, you would see his picture
 - 2. the chief
 - 3. first place, first in rank, as if Paul saw himself as a “Five Star General” sinner
 - 2. the **consistency of Paul’s sin**
 - a. please notice the greek words that Paul uses when he says; “I am the worst.”; “ego eim;”
 - b. these were the same greek words used by Jesus when He was speaking to the religious leaders about His preexistence in **John 8:58**: "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, **I am!**" (**Ego in the greek; eimi**)
 - 1. there is “no more present tense” that can be used
 - 2. for, not only did the Apostle Paul believe that he “**was**” the worst of sinners; as Paul was writing this letter to Timothy; he said that “**is**” the worst of sinners.
- b. look at how Paul “progressed” in his view of being the worst of all sinners
 - 1. in **55 A.D. – I Corinthians 15:9** – “For I am the **least of the apostles** and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.”
 - 2. in **60 A.D. - Ephesians 3:8** – “Although I am **less than the least of all God's people**, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,”

3. in **65 A.D. - two years before his death – I**

Timothy 1:15 – “Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to **save sinners—of whom I am the worst.**”

2. **this gospel is for us, as sinners**

- a. now; if the Apostle Paul, who was considered one of the greatest theologians who ever lived and HE considered himself as BEING the worst sinner in the world, **WHAT SHOULD WE THINK OF OUR OWN SIN?**
- b. there is a Biblical necessity for every born-again Christian to see himself as a sinner until the day that he dies
 1. my experience with a couple that visited our church
 - a. at lunch, the man suggested that he no longer sinned
 - b. I asked his wife; and she vehemently disagreed
 2. my experience in seminary
 - a. I was a relatively new Christian and did not think that I was a bad person
 - b. until Mr. Sam Patterson, one of my professors; asked one day in class: “Have you ever done anything in your life that did not involve a selfish motive?”
 - c. that was the end of my thinking that I was a good person and the beginning of thinking that I was the worst sinner on this earth!
- c. Christians who are growing in their knowledge of God’s Word and experiencing daily filling of the Holy Spirit **WILL NOT HAVE ANY ILLUSIONS ABOUT THEIR TRUE SIN NATURE**
 1. the further that you are from God’s Word; the better you will feel about yourself
 2. the closer to Christ you become, the more you will see your sin
 3. Isaiah, during his lifetime as one of Israel’s great prophets, would have been considered as one of the most Godly men on the earth, until he walked into the presence of God

Isaiah 6:1-5 – “In the year that King Uzziah died, I **saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted**, and the train of His robe filled the Temple. Above Him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory.” At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. **“Woe to me!”** I cried. **“I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”**

 - a. **“Woe to me!”**
 1. “Oh no!”
 2. “I am overtaken with grief.”

- b. **“I am ruined!”**
 - 1. “I am undone”
 - 2. “I do not want to be here.”
 - c. **“For I am a man of unclean lips”**
 - 1. “I am impure”
 - 2. “I am defiled”
 - 3. “I am polluted”
 - d. **“my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”**
 - 1. “for, I have seen the Lord God”
 - 2. “the Holy One; and I am not!”
4. **Philip Ryken – “Believers who are the most desperate about themselves are the ones who express most forcefully their confidence in grace.** Those who are the most pessimistic about man are the most optimistic about God; those who are the most severe with themselves are the ones who have the most serene confidence in divine forgiveness. . . **By degrees, the awareness of our guilt and of God’s love increase side by side.”**
5. **Beneath The Cross Of Jesus by Elizabeth Clephany**
 “And from my smitten heart with tears
 two wonders I confess,
the wonders of redeeming love. . .
and my unworthiness.”
- a. so, if you are feeling pretty good about yourself,
 - b. it proves that you are not walking closely with God

D. The PRESENTATION OF GOD’S GRACE

Vs. 16 – “But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on Him and receive eternal life.”

1. PLEASE REALIZE WHY PAUL WAS SPENDING SO MUCH TIME EXPLAINING HIS SINFUL NATURE TO TIMOTHY
 - a. it was not merely to say that he was a sinner; for the focus would have been only on Paul
 - b. and, Paul did NOT want to be the focal point
2. no; Paul revealed his extreme sin and God’s extravagant grace SO THAT PAUL COULD BE AN EXAMPLE OF THAT GRACE!
 - a. so that Paul **could be a “display” of God’s grace**
 1. the NIV says; a display
the KJV says; a pattern
 2. the greek means:
 - a. an outline; a sketch
 - b. a summary exposition
 - c. the root word
 1. to make a mark
 2. to strike a blow
 3. to make a print

3. **EVERY PERSON WHO HAS BEEN SAVED IS A MODEL; A PATTERN; A SAMPLE; A SKETCH OF WHAT GOD’S GRACE CAN DO IN SOMEONE’S LIFE!**
 - a. THIS IS WHY I AM IN THE MINISTRY
 1. for, if God can change a person like me; then he can change anyone!
 2. that is why I never tire of hearing stories of conversions – BECAUSE GOD CHANGES LIVES!
 - b. every person who has been converted is a painting that can be seen and enjoyed by the world around them
 1. The Orsay Museum
 2. The Louvre – The Mona Lisa
- b. so that Paul could be a **display of God’s “unlimited patience”**
 1. not only was Paul a model pattern of God’s grace
 2. but, Paul was also a model of God’s UNLIMITED PATIENCE as well
 - a. unlimited patience **defined:**
 1. makrothumia
 - a. makro
 1. long; far off
 2. long lasting
 - b. thumos
 1. wrath; fierceness
 2. passion, angry, heat
 2. unending patience that will never end
 - b. unlimited patience **applied**
 1. **as an unbeliever**, God will never lose His patience with us
 - a. He will put up with our garbage, our sins, our cursing, and our hatred
 - b. He will be patient with us until we are saved
 2. **as a believer**, God will never lose His patience with us
 - a. as we STILL sin as believers
 - b. as we abuse His grace by consciously sinning
 - c. as we live a life of hypocrisy

III. The TRIUMPH OF GOD'S GRACE

A. The RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

1. there are certainly many, many reasons to worship God
 - a. God as the creator
 - b. God as the sovereign
2. BUT, PAUL GIVES ANOTHER REASON TO PRAISE GOD; FOR HIS GRACE

B. The RANGE OF GOD'S GRACE

1. The WORTH OF OUR GOD

Vs. 17a – “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God.”

a. “Now to the King”

1. the only King in the universe
2. the absolute and eternal ruler

b. “eternal”

1. the One who has created everything and everyone who has even lived
2. the One who has existed forever;

c. “immortal”

1. the One who has been and will continue to be
2. the One who will never change

d. “invisible”

1. the one who cannot be fully seen because His holiness would crush us
2. but, despite the fact that we cannot see Him does not mean He does not exist

e. “the only God”

1. THERE IS NO OTHER GOD; NO OTHER CREATOR;
2. NO other judge

2. The WORSHIP OF OUR GOD

Vs. 17b – “be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

a. “be honor”

1. He is worthy of our worship
2. and, He is the only one who is worthy of our worship

b. “and glory”

1. our glorious God
2. magnificent, full of praise

c. “for ever and ever”

1. HIS RULE WILL NEVER END
2. HE WILL BE WORSHIPPED FOREVER!

d. “Amen”

1. **THIS IS ABSOLUTE TRUTH**
2. Amen

a. the most well-known word in the whole world

b. one day, the entire world and everyone who has ever lived, will realize that God is truly God; Amen!