

The Author: Paul

1 Timothy Introduction

INTRODUCTION

It was around May 2023, when Pastor Wayne got so sick, that Caleb got together with Ensener and me and said, "We need to have some kind of unity to our teaching." At the time we were taking turns covering the main teaching while Pastor was sick but each of us would focus on something different. Caleb wisely recognized that, since there was no consistency with the speakers, it would be beneficial for the church if at least the messages being taught had some kind consistency. And so we decided to all teach through Romans.

Now that Pastor Wayne is fully back and the Romans series is complete, the leadership wanted to take what was started with the Romans series and build upon it with this 1 Timothy series. To do that we have a few additional teachers for Sunday Evening. Ensener and myself will continue to teach and Pastor Peter will take Caleb's position. I'm excited about having Peter teach, he's a solid brother and I appreciate thoughtfulness and his desire know truth. And if you didn't know, Peter is our head deacon and I'm excited about that because 1 Timothy covers the requirements for church leadership and who better to teach on some of that than our head deacon.

In addition to Peter, we will have the big boss on our team as well - Pastor Wayne will be teaching along with us - and I look forward leadership through this series.

Just a note about the format - Our 1 Timothy series will still have a discussion time after, but we are committed to that time ending at 7pm. Teaching will end at 6:45 and the discussion time will last for 15min. Now, some will want to continue to share and so we have planned for fellowships after the discussion time.

Not every Sunday will have a fellowship after, but the fellowships will occur when either Ensener, Peter, or myself teach. No planned fellowship when Pastor teaches. Nothing against Pastor. Sunday School Classes will cover, Pupu's level

Not every Sunday evening will be a 1 Timothy night since we'll take breaks for special events and holidays.

So that's the plan - and we'll see how our Lord leads us with it.

BACKGROUND

1. Letter to Timothy who was the young minister at the Church at Ephesus
 - a. The City of Ephesus (show Map- Satellite Bible Atlas) is located in modern day Turkey and is in ruins today – but in Paul’s day this was one of the most important cities of the Roman empire. It was close to a harbor and also at the intersection of 4 great trade routes so the Ephesus became known as the gateway to Asia.
 - i. When the Apostle John writes the book of Revelation and it’s sent to the seven churches, Ephesus is the first one – Rev 2:1-7 – and then following churches addressed follow the order of cities that a person would travel as they went on those trade routes.
2. The importance of the City of Ephesus and how what happens in Ephesus affects most of the Roman Empire is reflected in Acts 19:10. It says that because of Paul’s teaching there, all Asia heard the word of the Lord.
 - a. ***Acts 19:10 And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.***
 - b. Not that every single person heard, but that the message had gone out from Ephesus and effected the whole of the Asia portion of the Roman Empire.
3. This should be exciting for us here – because there is a lot of similarities between Honolulu and Ephesus.
 - a. For one thing, we have many people coming and going – like Ephesus. For us it isn’t the trade business that brings them, but we have vacationers, college students, we have military – and because of that we too have been able to have a world wide impact. We’re a very small church, but because of our location, we have people that have become saved or spiritually matured here who now are making impacts in Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, China, as well as every state on the main land – and that’s’ not counting all the places our military family members wind up at. Also impacting those around them from there time here.

b. For this reason, we should pay careful attention to what Paul has written to Timothy. Paul knows he's writing to a church that is in a very influential city – and for that church to make the most of its opportunity – it must be free from false doctrine and guided by men of character who are committed first to the Kingdom of God in all areas of their lives.

i. Which is why this series is titled *Blue Print for the Church*

1. I'm an engineer and we produce drawings for how buildings are to be constructed. And while carpenters are very good and putting buildings together to withstand vertical loading – explain – What isn't intuitive is the lateral loading that comes from strong winds and earthquakes. And that's where the drawings come into play – and for a building to withstand strong winds and earthquakes – the contractors must follow the engineer's drawings. If not, when those strong winds or earthquakes come, the building will be damaged, or it could collapse.

2. Same thing here – if we rely on the world's wisdom for the blue print for the church, when we are hit by the winds of false doctrines – that too often it coming at us with bad teaching on the internet – we won't stand. But if we follow the blue print God has laid out for us with this book – we will be grounded and withstand the challenges to our faith.

3. So let's look at the first verse of 1 Timothy

THE CALLING OF PAUL

1 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;

1. Paul is an apostle by command of both God and the Lord Jesus Christ – Paul's testimony is quite amazing.

a. I know of a person who had just come to the Lord last year. And they have a huge desire to see their family saved. But their family is involved in some things that actively focus on tearing down the Christian Faith. And this person was a little stressed by this and said, "I don't see how the Lord can reach my family." But I'm listening to this, knowing that this person was

also a part of that belief system that is so anti Christ – and thinking – personally – I’m amazed that you came to Christ.

- i. And that’s what people thought of Paul – Because Paul was against Christ as much as person could be.
 - b. Prior to Christ, Paul had a lot of privileges. He was born in the Roman city of Tarsus, which made him a Roman citizen, one of the most sought after privileges of the ancient world.
 - c. His father was a Pharisee which meant he received an intense education in religious as well as legal matters. He spoke Aramaic, Greek, and possibly knew Latin. He became a lawyer and because he studied under the Pharisee Gamaliel he likely heard Peter preach the gospel to the council in Acts 5.
 - i. But Paul would not believe in Peter’s gospel presentation. In fact, he developed a righteous hatred for Christianity.
 - ii. When Stephen is killed for his faith in Acts 7, it’s Paul, whose name was Saul then, watched over the coats of the men that stoned Stephen.
- And when the persecution of the Christian church heats up – Paul is there leading the attack against the church
1. Today, it’s not uncommon for us to hear about some terrorist who gave up his life while killing innocent people because he believed his god was leading him to do that. People like that are dangerous because they are convinced that killing the innocents is called for by god and they are so zealous for their god that they are willing to die doing it.
 - a. This was Paul. This is the level that Paul was at – but it’s worse because the innocent people he wants to destroy is limited to Christians – God’s people –
 - b. It at this point in his life where the Lord Jesus steps into Paul’s life.
 - i. The Lord Jesus stops Paul on his way to persecute the Church and there God appoints Paul to be minister to the Gentiles.
 1. The mercy of I can not put in words – that the Lord Jesus would redeem Paul, such an enemy, and redeem him for the purpose of

being a missionary.

- This makes a massive life long impact upon Paul. That zeal that lead him to terrorist levels of insanity – is now channeled into the building up of the kingdom of God.
- 1. Paul starts by encouraging and building up the local church and then he launches off on great missionary journeys – were God uses him as he said he would to bring gentiles to him.
- 2. And it is one his third missionary journey that Paul goes to Ephesus and helps build the church there. He'll spend two years there preaching to them - and I'm guessing he preached the lessons that we covered in our Romans study – Which by the way was less than two years.
- 3. But from that, you can see Paul was a man fully committed to the kingdom in all areas of life, not just to missions – we don't want to limit Paul to just a missionary - . His zeal was for a full hearted commitment – that missions sprang from – which was his specific calling.
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- 1. When I was a new Christian there was a man named Doug Densen who sought to disciple me. And one time he asked me, should all Christians live like Paul? And I thought about that for a minute – and I thought no. No we shouldn't because then everyone would have to be a missionary and the church couldn't survive with everyone leaving for the mission field.
 - a. And I remember Doug didn't really respond back to me. He realized I needed to learn, and so he kept investing time in me.
 - b. And what I came to understand is that Paul had a specific calling that caused him to travel the world proclaiming the gospel – but that his zeal for the kingdom and the zeal for our calling should model Paul.
- 2. In Philippians 3:17 Paul says to ***"be followers together of me"*** follow his example he says– but preceding verses show the example that he's called us to follow.
 - a. That of all things in our lives, Christ is to be our greatest pursuit.

- i. ***Philippians 3:7-8 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,***
- b. The pursuit of Christ is to be our highest motivation.
- c. But what does pursuing Christ look like?
 - i. ***Colossians 3:16 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.***
 - ii. We do "all things" in the name of our Lord Jesus with thankfulness to the Father
 - 1. Catch that, "all things" not one thing, not certain things, not just church things, Brothers, you are not excused from applying this to your jobs– everything
 - iii. And we do for the Lord Jesus with zeal, we do it with passion –
 - iv. ***Hebrews 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.***
 - v. As runners seeking to win, we lay aside those things that pull our attention away from seeking after the Kingdom – and then we run like men and women committed to winning –
 - 1. This means making real life decisions to make us effective in the kingdom. This means we have to remove the distractions – what distracts you from Christ? What is more important to you than the pursuit of Christ
 - a. One of the questions for tonight's discussion is on this idea and I know that all of us would say that Christ is the most important thing to us – but what does your daily activities say about your

commitment? Where is most of your time spent? Where is most of your extra money spent? Do you say Christ is first, but your calendar and your wallet say something else?

2. So we are to follow Paul's example of pursuing Christ above all things.
3. This then affects every relationship we have and every position we hold.
 - a. Every family relationship, father, mother, child, should be affected by our pursuit of Christ – every positions we hold, whether that be in formal ministry or secular work or any kind of governance should be affected by our pursuit of Christ.
 - i. Which means we must be devoted God's word – for in it we can find direction for how to live out every one of those positions
4. So, living for Christ isn't some part of our lives, or some aspect of service – living for Christ is living for him with all that we are.
 - a. With complete zeal,
 - i. Because like Paul, we have also received immense Mercy from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions:

1. What position in life (parent/child, employer/employee, leader/subordinate) does God have you in right now, and what does pursuing Christ look like in that position?
2. What distracts you from focusing on following Christ while in that position? Why?
3. How should your priorities change so that you seek the Kingdom first?