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| 1  “Sin and the Glory of God”  01/06/24  1 Timothy 1:1-20 Sermon Outline  INTRO:  Contrasts are powerful  -Compliment each other  Contrast: Diamonds  -Beautiful and refracts light w/all its angles  -I bought Heidi a diamond ring for our engagement because no other beautiful and precious  What makes diamond “pop” even more: black backdrop  Black backdrop: your sin  Diamond: God’s glory  Only those two together: more brilliant/radiance | 2  MAIN POINT:  Paul is going to show the wickedness of sin and wickedness of false teaching as the backdrop for the diamond of God so that you will see the glory of God and glory of the gospel  BODY:  Paul starts off 1 Timothy typical greeting  Sender, recipient, greeting/blessing  *“Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”*  As mentioned last week:  Church in Ephesus had problems: false teachers/teaching  -Gospel issue  So Paul addresses church as “apostle” of Jesus Christ |
| 3  Not only one who is sent, but one who is personally commissioned by Jesus Himself  Timothy to straighten out false teaching in church because…it is according to the :  *“commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, our hope.”*  Timothy and everyone is to obey everything in this letter because it is directly commanded by Jesus  Recipient:  Addresses Timothy as “genuine child in the faith” = public + intimate nature  Notice V. 2  God as Savior + God as Father  Christ Jesus as Hope + Christ Jesus as your Lord  Salvation is not only an objective truth, but personal relationship with this objective truth | 4  V. 3 = right to the issue = false teaching  Paul previously exhorted Timothy (sometime during book of Acts) to command certain ones not to teach this false teaching  false teaching = lit. “different doctrine/teaching”  Timothy also not to pay attention to “myths and endless genealogies”  We don’t know exact nature of this  But likely Jewish in nature = genealogies = Jewish records of genealogies + matters related to the Law  Whatever it was = speculation = pushes people away from confidence in the gospel  Rather, Timothy to push forward plan of salvation for gospel to spread to ends of earth as well as build saints up  To further plan of saving sinners is to do it by faith |
| 5  What is faith:  Heb. 11:1  *“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”*  Trusting in the promises of God that you know are absolutely true  But false teachers created speculation because they lacked the conviction of those unseen realities. The best they can do is speculate.  But instead the goal of Timothy and the like is V. 5  *“love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a unhypocritical faith”*  This love comes from three sources/fruit of gospel  1st Source: A pure heart  Prov. 4:23 *“out of the heart flow the springs of life.”* | 6  “the heart is the factory of the soul that generates all desires, thought, emotion and action.”  Condition of heart = reflected in action  False teachers = self-centered, full of pride, exalting self  Church today is sadly rampant with so many pastors like these who do not love from a pure heart  Heart is divided with the world  Out their for gain like 2 Cor. 2:17  *“peddlers of God’s Word.”*  You can only have pure heart if your heart is purified by Word of God  Ps. 119  *“how shall a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to your word.”* |
| 7  Same ch. In Ps. 119  *“I have hidden your word in my heart so that I may not sin against you!”*  Hide God’s word in your heart only possible if “regenerated” by work of Holy Spirit  Born Again: Stone-cold heart becomes living, beating heart alive to God in salvation Ezekiel  Second source: Good Conscience  Scriptures emphasize good conscience because our conscience get be seared by continual sinning  -Numb  -hardened  -deadened  Paul made it goal or aim in life to have pure and clean conscience before God and before men  Lived in such a way that conscience did not accuse him of anything | 8  When Paul on trial both in Jewish and Gentil court Acts 23 + 24 respectively  brought his conscience as witness that He was doing nothing wrong to merit what he was going through  Yes he sinned greatly against Jesus when he was persecuting believers but….  Jesus cleansed him  1 Cor. 6 List of sinners who cannot inherit kingdom  *the sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, homosexuals, thieves, greedy, drunkards, revilers, swindlers*  But V. 11  *“such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Chirst and in the Spirit of our God.”* |
| 9  With his conscience being washed, Paul can be free to live fully in God’s love without an accusing conscience  Do you have a good conscience that enabled you to love others fully?  3rd Source: Unhypocritical Faith  Genuine faith not for show  Often people say “I don’t go to church because Christians are hypocrites”  It’s ultimately excuse stemming from self-righteousness and pride because they are not worthy to be in your holy presence  They are right to an extent:  Sadly Christians do play the hypocrite and act sinfully  But that’s precisely the point: Christians are still sinners! | 10  *“Lord I believe, help my unbelief!”*  We all lack faith and need to increase in our faith everyday  It’s not just believing more, but applying what we believe in our lives  James = demonstration of genuine faith through works  Profession of faith without living it is like demon who believes that God is one  Faith is channel by which we receive the love of God express that love to others  Gal. 5:6  *“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.”*  True faith is never alone. It appropriates gospel in every-day living |
| 11  Your theology may be correct, but are you demonstrating that sound theology by the way you live?  Does your life demonstrate the genuineness of your faith?  But Paul says V. 6 false teachers straying from these things:  *“turned aside to fruitless discussion, wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions.”*  Again we don’t know what it was but we know = abusing/misinterpreting Law of Moses  V. 8 Correct use of Law  First: Law is good = Rom. 7:12 Law is *“holy, righteous, and good”* | 12  Law not made for righteous person = not those who think they are righteous already  but for sinners (lawless and rebellious, ungodly and sinners).  Then Paul goes into paraphrase of some of the Ten Commandments  But He reveals piercing nature of commandments:  Not only father and mother killers but all murders  Not only sexually immoral but homosexuality  Not only liars but perjurers  Whatever else is contrary to “sound teaching”  Notice it doesn’t say “sound living”  = Sound doctrine + sound living are intertwined  You live according to what you believe about God what you believe about the Word of God |
| 13  V. 11 “sound teaching” *“according to gospel of glory of blessed God, which I have been entrusted”*  Everything goes back to = gospel because  sin goes against gospel  Paul does not end it there  In talking about gospel and sin-exposing Law of God, he includes himself in it  The apostle of Jesus Christ not chosen as apostle because anything good in him, rather he like any other sinner recipient of pure mercy.  VV. 12-16  Paul gives praise and thanks to Jesus because He regarded Paul as faithful to use in service, not because he was righteous  V. 13  *“even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief.”* | 14  Remember Paul before he became Christian?  Feared by believers as fiercest persecutor of Christians  Approved Stephen’s stoning Acts 7  Went house to house and dragged them out and put them in jail  No different than Hamas/ISIS  Violent man, full of hatred = thought he was pleasing God  Acts 9:26  *“they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.”*  When Christ appeared to him in blindingly blazing light, Jesus could have incinerated him to ashes  Yet… |
| 15  Jesus had other plans for Paul.  Did not count Paul’s sins against him  V. 15 1st out of 5 “Trustworthy” sayings in pastorals  2 other times in 1 Timothy  fourth in Titus  fifth 2 Timothy  *“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am the foremost.”*  Jesus didn’t come into the world to condemn the world, because condemned already (as John says) but to save it.  And Paul is foremost of sinners, some trans. “chief of sinners”  Ephesians 3:8 “least of all the apostles”  If requirement, Paul would be least qualified | 16  Yet Paul’s past life not for nothing  God’s perfect wisdom and sovereignty God did not allow Paul’s life to go to waste  He showed Paul mercy: lit. “mercified”  so that demonstrate “perfect patience” for those who would believe on Him for eternal life  Rom. 5:20  *“where sin increased, grace abounded all the more”*  Like back in Gen. 15  (God explaining future of Abraham and nation of Israel)  Israel would not return until “iniquities of the Amorites” is complete  Meaning: God ordaining enough time for Amorites to sin so much that when God comes in judgment through His people for promised land, He would completely justified as righteous judge |
| 17  Similar way, God ordained Paul’s life to go to the bottom of depravity so that grace and mercy would abound to the fullest.  Paul’s black backdrop in the light of God’s diamond of grace  Point: If God can save hopelessly evil man like Paul, he can save anyone, he can save you. It doesn’t matter how far gone you have gone in sin. It’s never too late while you are living  When you realize the amazing grace and mercy of God in light of your “hell”-deserving sins, you should erupt in praise in v. 17  *“to the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen!”*  Literally Jesus = king of eternities  Cannot die  Cannot be seen  Only one God who rules and reigns = He is transcendant | 18  Yet, this transcendent God = unfathomable, uncontainable, invisible came into this world to save you from your sins  When you realize that you are dead in your sins and that God had to make you alive in Christ Jesus  impossible for you to claim any ounce of glory or honor for your salvation  All honor and glory goes to King of eternities  Is. 42:8  *“I am Yahweh, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.”*  What Paul has is precious. Greatest privilege in world as unworthy vessel to carry gospel of J.C.  V. 18 Command is entrusted from Paul to Timothy  Not for Paul to hoard, not for him to keep to himself |
| 19  And similarly Timothy is to carry on this entrustment and *“fight the good fight.”*  Meaning: Keeping the faith  Keeping good conscience: live in such a way that conscience does not accuse you of sin or impurity  We are in a spiritual war where souls are at stake and God’s glory is at stake  Eph. 6:12 *“our struggle is not in flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”*  Don’t be like these false teachers who have rejected this and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith  Veered off course from gospel in blackness of night and waves of sin and depravity have overtaken them  V. 20 Paul personally names them and calls them out | 20  Hymenaeus and Alexander  Paul is doing what we will see in 1 Timothy 5:20  *“Those who continue in sin, reprove in the presence of all, so that the rest also will be fearful.”*  Paul handed these men over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme  Confronting sin means confronting the sinner  Matthew 18 explain  It’s not easy, but it’s the biblical thing to do  It involves naming names because we are God’s household. We are treat one another like family  But these have gone to last step in church discipline  No purifying influence, cut off from fellowship, cut off from means of grace in the church |
| 21  Sometimes, people will never learn the sinfulness of their sin until they hit rock bottom in their lives  Similarly 1 Cor. 5:  *“I have delivered him over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.”*  Goal in church discipline is restoration, not condemnation  Sin is serious, sin is deadly, sin not to be trifled with  Sin always crouching at your door waiting to pounce on you every chance you let it  Like Satan wanted to do with Peter, sin is demanding to sift you like wheat  You find out how exceedingly sinful you are when you look at the perfect Law of God and how you have broken every one of them  Why? | 22  James 2:10 *“whoever keeps the whole law and stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all”*  Gal. 5:3 similarly:  if you try to follow one part of the Law, you are obligated to keep the whole Law  Law not designed to save you  Law designed to show your condemnation in sin and make you flee to Christ  You know what fundamental root issue of false teachers were?  They did not believe they were sinners who have failed all aspects of the Law  They were blind to fact that they were sinners deserving of judgment  They thought they were righteous |
| 23  So as result if you don’t see that you are first a sinner, then Christ did not die for you  Christ was not raised for you  Bad news must come first before good news  If you don’t see yourself as sinner, then what do you need to be saved from?  But Paul not content to leave you in self-righteous state because concerned for glory of God  God not glorified by self-righteous, prideful, false teachers with their false teachers  Not glorified by wrong theology on gospel and even wrong theology “secondary issues”  You are like a prism that refract glorious light of God in your life  “Black Smudges” | 24  And Christian your one business in life is to live and die for the glory of God  God’s glory is your good  God’s glory is your worship  You love God more than anything right?  Men will you guard and protect your wife? Yes!  Why? Because you love her the most in life  Is your love for greater than your spouse? Yes! It should be!  How much more should you guard and protect God’s glory from things that diminish His glory?  Whether unsound living or unsound doctrine!  Paul writes this inspired Scripture get you Christina to give no glory to yourself and God all the glory for grace and mercy |
| 25  But also writes this for those who haven’t bowed the knee to the King  For those of you who believe you are righteous in your good works before God  You cannot give God glory because you are glorying in yourself  When Jesus comes again in clouds in blazing glory and righteousness, He will destroy all those who dare take His place as preeminent in life  There can only be on eking  There can only be one God  One truth  One kingdom  One Lord over all | 26  All other pretenders to the throne will be executed in the lake of fire that burns with brimstone forever  The gospel is not only a message but a command as Paul previously said to Timothy “this *command* I entrust to you”  It is a command to repent from your sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior by faith alone  Will you follow the light of the gospel that will lead you to safety?  Or will you ignore it and become shipwrecked forever in the blackness of the sea?  Do you recognize that you are shipwrecked in your sins and only one captain can save you?  The captain and author of salvation, Christ Jesus the Lord.  Don’t let your sin shipwreck you to hell. Let’s pray |