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| 1  1 Timothy 2:1-7 Sermon Outline  “The Inclusive and Exclusive Gospel”  01/14/24  INTRO:  I remember driving church billboard “come as you are” and “homosexuals welcome”  -Similar signs supporting LGBTQ + Woke ideology  Many churches love inclusive nature of gospel  -regardless of race, gender, past life  But they don’t love and leave out is exclusive nature of gospel  In order to experience the freedom and joy that Christ brings, you must repent and leave your sinful life behind  Yes, Gospel is inclusive but also + “exclusive” | 2  MAIN POINT:  Today’s passage, Paul will show you that very thing that gospel is both inclusive and exclusive  And…to proclaim this glorious gospel starts first with prayer  REVIEW:  Last week looked at church in Ephesus Timothy was pastoring at  -False teachers misinterpreting and misusing Law  -Creating myths and endless genealogies  -causing division in church  -Creating suspicion towards Paul authenticity as apostle  -Turning people away from truth of the gospel  -Paul explains proper use of the Law, not for righteous but for sinners  -Law is tutor/schoolmaster to lead us to Christ |
| 3  -Designed to show us how far we have fallen from God’s standard for perfection…  -Paul is saying all this not because he is great, but because he too recipient of God’s mercy  -In fact, Paul’s life so depraved that one of reasons God saved Him from sins was so that life could be testimony of God’s grace  -If Paul can be saved, anyone can be saved  -Ends ch. 1 entrusting gospel to Timothy for next generation to guard and protect it  To “fight the good fight” of faith with gospel  -Unlike those like Hymenaeus and Alexander who have abandoned it suffered shipwreck in their faith  -Gospel is good news to one who accepts it, but bad news to one who rejects it | 4  BODY:  Ch. 1 set trajectory of the letter  Ch. 2:8 onward = Implications for gospel for life of church  -How men/women act in church  Now in 1:15 = what gospel is = “*It is a trustworthy saying and deserving full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost.”*  But today focusing on vv. 1-7 = nature of gospel  What is the extent and scope of the gospel?  What is the relationship between gospel and your prayers?  Starts off 2:1-2  “*First of all, then, I exhort that petitions and prayers, requests and thanksgivings, be made for all men,* |
| 5  *for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.”*  First issue Paul wants to address is praying for all men  because if you don’t pray for them or for the Lord to change your heart towards them in compassion, you won’t suddenly start proclaiming to them gospel  We often will smack ourselves on the forehead after we realize we could have shared the gospel with someone  We say “Why didn’t the truth with them?”  But have you been praying for the Lord to give you a loving desire to proclaim the gospel to them?  For the Lord to warm your cold heart to the lost? | 6  In God’s perfect wisdom and sovereignty, he has decided to use our prayers as the instrument by which sinners are led to the Lord  Now God will save someone regardless of our prayers, and that is the mystery behind God’s sovereignty where he’s not Pidgeon-holed by our prayers where if we don’t pray, he’s unable to save, but yet, God save sinners through our prayers  I think it is primarily meant for us to reap the joy and blessing of knowing that we were a step in the process of leading someone to the Lord  But Paul brings up issue of prayer and gospel because false teachers not praying for lost, most likely Gentiles  -Theology did not allow to pray for Gentiles’ salvation  -We know nature of heresy is Jewish in nature at least in part = Law + genealogies |
| 7  Similar to Titus’ situation, Tit. 1:4  *“Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.”*  Some sort of exclusivism going at church of Ephesus.  They were not “petitioning,” “praying,” “requesting,” and giving thanksgiving in prayer for all men as they should have been  4 words = different aspects of prayer  “Petition” = “supplication” = Phil. 4:6  *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”*  Idea = asking Lord earnestly for particular benefit/need  “Prayers” = general term focuses desire to come to God for his general blessing and care | 8  “Requests” = bringing petition before king with urgency/boldness + often concern for others  Heb. 4:16  ***“****Therefore let us draw near with confidence or boldness to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*  Lastly “Thanksgiving” = eucharistia = Eucharist  Christians = thankful  Thanksgiving paired with prayer = Phil. 4:6  Col. 4:2  *“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”*  Unlike those in church discouraging people from praying for secular rulers/Gentiles  True followers of Christ = prays for all men |
| 9  Paul’s command = revolutionary  because Nero = lit Rome on fire = savage  Lit Christians on fire on poles = torchlights for guests at banquets  Sick and depraved ruler  You could see how Christians in those days were tempted to pray for his judgment instead of his salvation  Yet, Paul did not hold grudge or encourage rebellion  But to pray for them  Love that overcomes hatred and vengeance = comes only from God  Pray to lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity | 10  In other words, point of praying is not comfort, but for gospel to have as little of hindrances as possible going forth  Yes, Christians and the gospel do thrive in times of persecution as well, but ideal situation is for gospel to reign in times of peace as it will be in the millennial kingdom  In meantime, live a godly and dignified life as a witness to the gospel to a lost and dying world  V. 3 = *“This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior”*  because…nothing brings Him more glory that seeing sinners to come saving faith in Him!  And this God…V. 4 *“desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth”*  V. 4 = issue of predestination and man’s choice  Not Paul’s main point | |
| 11  However, Scripture does not contradict Scripture  -Some of you might be wondering how this  verse squares with God’s sovereignty  Mentioned before “context is king”  Any word = interpreted in immediate context  What does Paul mean “desiring” and “all”?  First thing, God is not like you  You = desire for something or something to happen but unable to carry it out or circumstances prevents you from working it out  God not like that  His desire/will is not in conflict with his ability to carry out His desire  From our perspective, it appears that God is waiting for our response to the gospel | 12  But from God’s perspective, his will is perfectly aligned with His power to save so that if He wills someone’s salvation, that person is saved  So that’s not what Paul is talking about  Secondly, remember context of passage = false teachers not praying for all men  Maybe not praying because for Nero because he was wicked, sadistic ruler  Maybe because he was primarily a Gentile,  or maybe because he was both  Unlike false teachers gospel not exclusive to Jews alone  Gospel is inclusive of all types pf people, whether slave or king, whether Gentile or Jew  Col. 3:11 | |
| 13  “*a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, and freeman, but Christ is all and in all*.”  “all” = all “types” of people, not every single person on the planet  Illus: Teacher in classroom taking role call  “are we ALL here?”/ Is “everyone” here?  Every single person on planet? No  = everyone in classroom  Illus:  Similarly 1 Tim. 2:1  Paul exhorts petitions, prayers, requests and thanksgiving be made for “ALL” men.  Paul saying use google and look up all 7 billion individuals and pray for them? No… | 14  Or Scripture = “Pray without ceasing”  24/7 praying? You’ll die from starvation and dehydration in about a week  Always being in a posture of prayer and taking opportunities to pray when you can  Going back V. 4  Not only saved but to come to “full knowledge of the truth”  Not only justified but also sanctified  More and more glorified as you sharpen your accuracy in God’s Word  Paul continues V. 5 = one God/not multiple gods  multiple gods = everyone worshipping according to their god  Isa. 45:5  *“I am Yahweh, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God.”* | |
| 15  Not only is there one God, but there is only one mediator to God  No multiple paths to God which I hear many people say  We all worship the same God, as long as you sincere, God will accept you  Islam and Christians do not worship the same God.  Muslims have a demon as their god, Christians and faithful Jews alone worship the one true God, the God of Israel  How you get to God is the problem  Jesus makes intolerant claim in John 14:6  *“He is the way, the truth, and the life.”*  No one comes to Father but by Him | 16  When you think about mediator, you might think referee between two equal parties  Or a mediator who is trying too find compromise between two parties.  Neither is in view  God is in the right and humanity is in the wrong  Romans 3:23 “ALL” have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God  Diagnosis of humanity:  Romans 3:10-18  “*There is none righteous, not even one; There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; All have turned aside, together they have become worthless; There is none who does good, There is not even one.” “Their throat is an open tomb, With their tongues they keep deceiving,” “The poison of asps is under their lips”; “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness”; “Their feet are swift to shed blood,**Destruction and misery are in their paths, And the path of peace they have not known.” “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”* | |
| 17  Through one man’s sin, humanity = plunged into darkness, evil, suffering, and death  Humanity = so estranged from God lit. hostility between God and man  Hope of Gospel: Though you were dead in your sins, Christ entered this world by taking on humanity, adding a fully human nature to His divine nature  To be second Adam to represent humanty before God  Humanity failed = Jesus succeeded  This is why V. 5 “the man” Christ Jesus  Jesus became a man and successfully bridged the gap between God and man  This man, in V. 6 *“gave Himself as a ransom for all, the witness for this proper time”* | 18  Ransom = anti-lutron. He not only provided a ransom = Lutron, He became the ransom itself =anti-lutron  He became a vicarious substitutionary atonement for you.  He ransomed you not from Satan, but from God Himself  He appeased the wrath of God against sinners  The problem is not with God, it is men who reject the gospel  The problem is not with God, it is men who choose sin over Christ.  While God is kind and compassionate = also holy and just and must punish sin  Again “ALL” = all types of sin  Atonement sufficient to cover any sin. It did not literally pay for every sin of every sinner that existed = universalism | |
| 19  Christ did not atone for everybody because if He did everyone would be saved.  John 17:9  Jesus in High priestly prayer for the disciples said this:  *“I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours”*  But if He has atoned for you, then Christian that is your eternal comfort that the atonement, salvation has nothing to do with you  You are not good enough for salvation because you could never be good enough  If you had even a molecule to contribute to your salvation, you should rightly be terrified to lose your salvation  If that is your theology that you could lose your salvation based on your obedience to God, then that is the most depressing reality that anyone could experience | 20  But that is not what Scripture teaches right?  Far from it. Praise God that Eph. 4:30 says *“He has sealed you by His Holy Spirit for the day of redemption”*  Paul adds that the work of Christ on the cross = ultimate manifestation of God’s love to the world  “the witness for this proper time”  Saints of OT longed for day when promised Messiah would appear, and it did appear two thousand years ago  Luke 2:25-32 records the reaction of a devout Jew named Simeon:  “*And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the comfort of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.* | |
| 21  *And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, then he took Him into his arms and blessed God, and said, “Now Master, You are releasing Your slave in peace, According to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, Which You prepared in the presence of all peoples, A Light for revelation to the Gentiles, And for the glory of Your people Israel.”*  V. 7  *“For this, I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.”*  Paul was raised as an apostle to proclaim the glory of the Gospel to Gentiles  And he does this in faith and in truth  Paul loved God, and to love God is to proclaim the truth that brings Him most honor and glory | 22  To not tell the truth of the gospel to someone on the edge of hell is the most unloving thing to do  Society has completely separated the idea that to be loving is to tell people the truth  Truth and love are two sides to the same coin  In fact, 1 Cor. 13:6 says  *“love does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth”*  Don’t let anyone say to you that you are being unloving by proclaiming the gospel. You are doing the most loving act you can do  I find it ironic that God tends to have us minister to people whom we once hated when we’re saved  It is like a pastor who I know of that once hated Latinos and Hispanic people  He was as white as you can be, he was racist against Latinos | |
| 23  But God saved him, gave him a Hispanic wife, and now he preaches fluently in Spanish to a Spanish congregation  I don’t know this because the text doesn’t say, but I wouldn’t be surprised if Paul hated Gentiles more than anyone  After all, he was one of the leaders of the Sanhedrin and there no one more Pharisaic than Paul  Yet, God saved him to be an apostle to the Gentiles,  what an incredible testimony to the power of grace  The Gospel is both inclusive and exclusive at the same time  It doesn’t matter who you are, what ethnicity you are, how much you sinned, your background or your past, the Gospel is for all | 24  Yet the gospel is exclusive in its condition to come  It is only for those build house on rock/not sand  It is only for those who readied their oil lamps when bridegroom arrives  Only for those who prepared good soil in their hearts  Only for those who don’t look back when they put their hand to the plow  Only for those who give up everything to gain Christ  Only for those who deny themselves, take up their cross and follow Christ  The Gospel is only good news when you come to it on God’s terms  But Gospel is bad news if you come to it on your terms | |
| 25  There are consequences to rejecting the gospel  If you keep living your own way, relying on your self, banking your whole life on your good works  you will never make it  Think of the greatest chasm in the Grand Canyon. Nobody can make a leap from one cliff to that other cliff alive  Now picture that chasm as an infinite chasm separating you from God  If you make that leap on your own, you will surely plunge yourself into hell forever  And hell is not annihilation, it is not soul-sleep, it is a conscience, unimaginable torment that will never ever end  Hell is so terrifying that many have tried to deny that hell is real and to erase the doctrine of hell form the Bible  Hell is just as real as heaven | 26  Every day you live, you take one step closer to hell  But Christ can take you under the shadow of his wings and bring you to God  He can secure you to Himself forever so that the flames of hell will never touch your clothes  In fact, it will be a different warmth you will feel. You will feel the life-saving light of God’s glory when you come to an end to yourself and trust in the man Christ Jesus  Stop trusting in yourself and trust in Christ  There is only God and only mediator between God and man, that is the man Christ Jesus.  Let’s pray | |