

1 Timothy 1:18-20 Waging War by the Word of God

Series: 1 Timothy

Reading **1 Timothy 1:18-20** June 11th 2017

Last week we looked at Paul's focus on Jesus and acknowledgment of his own sin. What a statement he made in verse 15, that Jesus Christ came to save sinners, of whom he is chief. Now we look at his conclusion in chapter 1. He is encouraging Timothy, but not how you or I might expect in this day and age. He isn't telling Timothy how good he is, or how well he is doing. He is laying out why he is writing this down for Timothy and that it will be hard. Timothy is going to wage a war, a war for the truth of scripture, and a war against false teachers and error. Join us as we look at Paul's concluding thoughts in Chapter 1.

- **1 Timothy 1:18** “This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,”
 - This charge: This letter I commit to you...
 - **1 John 2** Old commandment, the word of God... New commandment, love of the brethren...
 - Here we have a letter containing instruction from beginning to end.
 - It is an open letter that would give Timothy authority to set up the church and instruct and rebuke teachers in the church.
 - **1 Timothy 1:3** “As I urged you when I went into Macedonia-- remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine,”
 - **1 Timothy 3:14-15** ¹⁴ “These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; ¹⁵ but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”
 - Specific authority to Timothy:
 - Son Timothy
 - Heart affection but more than that...
 - **1 Timothy 1:2** “To Timothy, a true son in the faith: ... Spiritual Son, who was true in the Faith...”
 - He was holding the line. He needed encouraging, but was the one Paul went to do this job under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
 - He wasn't a son of just Paul, but of / in the faith...
 - According to the prophecies previously made concerning you...
 - **1 Timothy 4:11-16** ¹¹ “These things command and teach. ¹² Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. ¹³ Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. ¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. ¹⁵ Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. ¹⁶ Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”
 - The gift and prophecies are referred to with regard to preaching the gospel, holding the faith, being a help to the church, preaching...
 - **1 Timothy 4** Commands Timothy to still pursue knowledge and practice of the faith. BOTH must walk together. (Even with a gift given through the power of the Holy Spirit)
 - Vs. 12 – 1st to be an example in word, conduct, love, the spirit, faith and purity....
 - Speech, actions, his heart, his trust in God, and singleness and devotion to God.
 - 3 Commands to give to himself: Reading, exhorting, and doctrine.....
 - Reading – Systematic understanding of God's word.

- Old Testament – **Deu. 17:9** The Kings and leaders were to read and have the law before them all the days of their lives... **Joshua 1:8-9** Joshua is commanded to meditate on the law day and night, that He may observe to do according to all that is written therein... For then he will have good success... **Psa. 1:2** Blessed is the man who delights in the law of God, He meditates on it day and night... He shall be like a tree planted... **Psa. 19 and 119** also on the word of God, **Proverbs 2** and seeking her as silver and searching for her as Gold....
- Exhorting – God’s word was to be taught. There is power in the proclaiming of the word of God.
 - We are witnesses, not inventors, just called to testify about what we KNOW!
 - Commanded to teach and disciple “all things that I have commanded you.”
- Doctrine – The sum of God’s word. There is to be more than an outward understanding.
 - **Ephesians 4:11-15** ¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ”
- Why? God’s testimony of His words... both in 1 Tim 4 and here in writing the whole command out?
 - **Truth!** – **John 17:17** "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."
 - No verse that God’s word is true. Why?
 - Truth is a complete body of knowledge. Not a single fact.
 - ^{ESV} **Psalm 119:160** The sum of your word is truth, ...
 - **1 Corinthians 1:18** For the message (Logos – word) of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
 - **Enduring!**
 - **Matthew 24:35** "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."
 - **Psalms 89:34** “My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.”
 - **Proverbs 30:5** “Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.”
 - **Isaiah 40:8** “The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”
 - **Isaiah 55:11** “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”
 - **Titus 1:2** “in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,”
 - **1Peter 1:25** “But the word of the LORD endures forever. Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.”
 - **Valuable**
 - **Psalms 19:11** “Moreover by them Your servant is warned, *And* in keeping them *there is* great reward.”
 - Warnings of how to live, what to do, what to believe, what is true.

- Reward for knowing this! A great reward. A relationship with God. Nothing short of that.
- **Basis For Salvation:**
 - **1 Timothy 4:16** “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”
 - Cautious belief will bring you to salvation....
 - **2 Timothy 3:14-15** “¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
 - **1 Peter 1:23** “having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,”
- **Food for our Souls and Growth**
 - **Jeremiah 23:26-30** “²⁶ How long will *this* be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed *they are* prophets of the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷ who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal. ²⁸ The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What *is* the chaff to the wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹ *Is not* My word like a fire? says the LORD, And like a hammer *that* breaks the rock in pieces? ³⁰ Therefore behold, I *am* against the prophets, says the LORD, who steal My words every one from his neighbor.”
 - **1 Peter 2:1-3** “¹ Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, ² as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.”
- **Rock and Foundation**
 - **Matthew 7:24-27** “²⁴ Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”
- **1 Timothy 1:19** “having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,”
 - Faith (belief) must have practice (i.e. a good conscience). Rejection of anything is destruction. Shipwreck... eternal destruction... what a picture. On the seas of life, sailing into the rocks to sink, just letting the wind blow you wherever it wills, while you sleep and eat with shoals ahead...
- **1 Timothy 1:20** “of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.”
 - **2 Timothy 2:14-18** “¹⁴ Remind *them* of these things, charging *them* before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. ¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. ¹⁶ But shun profane *and* idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. ¹⁷ And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, ¹⁸ who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.”

Our war is for the truth. It is infinitely precious. Our souls and the souls of all who hear us are at stake. Paul was writing to give Timothy a firm foundation to stand on. He was going to be pushed, abused, loved and hated... he would need to be grounded with deep roots to stand in the winds and tempest. Here is the command, the charge on

how to set himself and the church to stand. We need these words as well. We leave them to our own destruction as well. May we hold true to God's truth.

(2Co 13:14) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.