

1 Timothy 1:12-17 Saved by Grace to Serve

Series: 1 Timothy

Reading 1 Timothy 1:12-17 June 4th 2017

Today we want to look further into 1 Timothy as Paul talks about his own salvation experience. You will notice that here he doesn't go into the facts of how he was called (on the road to Damascus), but the why. He started his letter charging Timothy to teach no other doctrine and now continues with a look at the why of salvation. He is concerned that there are many who might have a right-looking start, but then they go astray in the way of the Christian life. There were those who said you could be saved by Jesus Christ, but then added that you had to become a Jew and keep the law. If we add anything to salvation that God hasn't added, we have moved into error. Paul is going to show us how he sees His salvation working itself out.

- Paul is concerned to get the how and the why of our lifestyle right in the letter to Timothy.
 - 1 Timothy 1:3-4 “³ As I urged you when I went into Macedonia-- remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, ⁴ nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.”
 - 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.”
 - Doctrine is important!!!! There is to be concrete teaching, a search for truth. vs. fables... genealogies... disputes.... (not taught, not explicit...)
 - Paul knows that Timothy knows most of his doctrine. A disciple and companion of Paul for years... Other letters are focused also on doctrine, Romans in particular... Here in Timothy he emphasizes the result of doctrine, conduct.
 - There are also practical considerations of how that doctrine impacts us. How we are to live our lives. We also should keep the object of the church in mind. We are to be the pillar in support of the truth. Not a club, not only a good neighbor, not a political action group.... But a supporter of the truth. WE are witnesses! Not inventors...
 - Doctrine is never dead, it should impact how we live our lives...
 - Paul's letters almost always have a doctrinal start followed by a clear... “Therefore, live this way...”
 - Romans 1-11 – Our salvation
 - Romans 12-16 – (Rom 12:1-2) “¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
- Paul's focus on Jesus! What Christ did in the salvation of Paul.
 - Order is important... It changes the destination.
 - 1 Timothy 1:7-9 “⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm. ⁸ But we know that the law *is* good if one uses it lawfully, ⁹ knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for *the* lawless and insubordinate...”
 - Galatians 3:24 “Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”
 - Paul's focus is on Jesus Christ from first to last.
 - 1 Timothy 1:12-17 “¹² And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,”
 - “¹³ although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.” (Paul's part)

- “¹⁴ And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”
- “¹⁵ This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”
- “¹⁶ However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.”
- “¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”
- Salvation is about God’s work from start to finish.
 - God is the one who condemns us so that He could save us.
 - Romans 11:32 “For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.”
 - Maintained God’s standards of truth and righteousness...
 - Allowed God to look outside of man for salvation
 - Maintained the glory as being to God only!
 - Anything that glorifies man is suspect.
 - Galatians 3:22 “But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.”
 - Romans 4:16 “Therefore *it is* of faith that *it might be* according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,”
 - Salvation is not just a prayer on a track, it is God answering that prayer! God doing a work and giving us new life, new desires, sealing us with the Holy Spirit, drawing us near to Himself, giving us love for God...
 - Paul’s salvation was a work of God. We are treated to an external display of the internal workings of God in salvation!
 - Kick against the pricks. God’s internal convicting work. Paul was fighting it, how? By trying to silence those by preaching that Jesus was the Son of God and that the Jews were under judgment for rejecting Him.
 - We are also under judgment if we reject Him!
 - **Hebrews 2:3-4** “³ how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*, ⁴ God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”
- Paul’s focus on his own sin!
 - When we focus on God, we see ourselves as sinners. The closer we draw to God, the more we are aware of how short we come, even in our best attempts.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:9 “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.”
 - Ephesians 3:8 “To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,”
 - 1 Timothy 1:15 “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”
 - Romans 7:21-24 “²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”

- God's holiness is more than external. It is more than blinding light and thunder. It pervades the area around Him and sets it apart. Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3 = ground is holy..., and Isaiah in the temple, unclean lips.... sacrifice and humility are the results, always.... pride = probably error. "Pride" is different than "certainty."
- Real Salvation always starts with real Repentance, an acknowledgment of Sin.

(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."