

Lessons From I Timothy

Christ's Mercy

(I Ti 1:12-20)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From I Timothy."
 - a. Last week we examined "Those Contrary To Sound Doctrine."
 - i. **I Ti 1:3, 10-11** "As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine...10...and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, 11 in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted."¹
 - b. This week we will be looking at what Paul had to say concerning "Christ's Mercy."
 - i. **I Ti 1:12-14** "I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, 13 though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus."
3. Paul saw himself as the chief or foremost sinner.
 - a. He was a blasphemer.
 - i. The idea is one that injures with his/her speech.
 - ii. A slanderous and disrespectful speech.
 - b. He was a persecutor.
 - i. He held the coats of those that stoned Stephen.
 - ii. He through families into prison.
 - c. He was an insolent opponent.
 - i. He was violently arrogant, disrespectful, and insulting.
4. Paul encountered Christ's mercy for two reasons.
 - a. He was ignorant in unbelief.
 - i. This is not suggesting ignorance and unbelief will grant anyone salvation.
 1. **II Th 1:8** "in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus."
 2. **Lk 12:47-48** "And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. 48 But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more."

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- ii. This is suggesting God has mercy on those that are ignorant and in unbelief.
 - 1. Paul still had to be saved by God's grace through faith.
 - a. **I Ti 1:14** "And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus." (NKJV)
 - 2. That faith which works through love.
 - a. **Ga 5:6** "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love."
 - 3. That love which is motivated by God's mercy toward us.
 - a. **Ps 85:7** "Show us Your mercy, LORD, And grant us Your salvation." (NKJV)
 - b. He was to be an example to all the saints of Christ's patience towards all.
 - 1. "
 - a. **II Pt 3:9** "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."
5. Let us examine the mercy Christ shows towards us today.
- a. Mercy is defined as being...
 - 1. Compassionate, kind, and lenient.

I. Christ Is Compassionate

- A. Let us observe for a moment His compassion towards each of us
 - 1. He created us though He does not **need** us.
 - i. **Jn 1:3** "All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."
 - 2. He **emptied** Himself and gave up heaven for a time to come to earth **for us**.
 - i. **Ph 2:6-7** "who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."
 - 3. He willingly sacrificed Himself and took on **our sins**.
 - i. **I Pt 2:24** "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."
- B. Thus...
 - 1. We could look high and low and find no one more compassionate (merciful) than our Savior.

II. Christ Is Kind

- A. Let us examine His kindness towards each of us
 - 1. He offers His continual flow of blood even though we continue to fall short.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

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2. He offers His continual hand and guidance even though we continue to fall short.
 - i. **He 13:5-6** “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” 6 So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?””

B. Thus...

1. We could reflect on all the kind and affectionate people we know and they all fail in comparison to the kindness (mercy) Christ continually shows towards us.

III. Christ Is Lenient

A. Let us look at His lenience towards us

1. He is longsuffering with us even though we continue to deserve death.
 - i. **II Pt 3:15** “And count the patience of our Lord as salvation...”
 - ii. **II Pt 3:9** “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

CONCLUSION

1. Brethren there is no doubt that Christ’s mercy should give us comfort and peace of mind.
 - a. However let us make sure we never abuse that mercy and longsuffering on our behalf by delaying our faithfulness to Him.
2. Question: Are you keenly aware of the mercy Christ shows towards you each and everyday?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**