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"Foundations of Christian Ministry"

Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:1-2

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:10

Introduction

- A. What is the church supposed to be like?
- B. Three Models of Approaching How to Do and Be the Church
 - 1. Liberal Model
 - 2. Modern Evangelical Model
 - 3. Biblical Model
- C. "We're to be doing God's work God's way for God's glory" (Ed Lacy).
- D. Big idea: Christian ministry is God-appointed, God-conscious, and God-enabled ministry.

I. Christian Ministry Is According to the Commandment of God (1:1)

- A. Christian ministry is a God-appointed ministry.
- B. Acts 9:15
- C. All true Christian ministry is according to the commandment of God and of Christ Jesus.
- D. Paul was an authoritative messenger of the gospel and had been commissioned by Jesus Himself.
- E. Are there any apostles like Paul today?

II. Christian Ministry Is Dependent on Our Knowledge of God (1:1-2)

- A. Christian ministry is a God-conscious ministry.
- B. The ministry of the Christian church depends upon a clear understanding of who God is.
- C. First, God is Savior. He saves sinners!
- D. Second, Christ Jesus is our hope. Biblical hope is a confident expectation that God will fulfill His Word. It is faith in future grace.
- E. Third, God is our Father. You cannot call God your Father unless you know Jesus. (John 5:23; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 2:23)
- F. Fourth, Christ Jesus is our Lord. We are to follow Him, obey Him, serve Him. Jesus is our Master.

III. Christian Ministry Is Enabled by the Resources of God (1:2)

- A. Christian ministry is a God-enabled ministry.
- B. Christian ministry is utterly dependent upon the resources granted to us by God the Father in Christ Jesus. (John 15:5)
- C. Grace—God's undeserved favor, love, and forgiveness that frees sinners from the consequences of sin. There is saving grace and sustaining grace in Christ. "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me" (1 Corinthians 15:10).
- D. Mercy—God's special care for those in need.
- E. Peace—Peace with God (Romans 5:1) and inner peace for living (John 14:27).

Conclusion

- A. As we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we are reminded that grace, mercy, and peace are only experienced in Christ.
- B. At the heart of Christian ministry is the proclamation of the gospel.
- C. The Gospel Definition