

January 7, 2024
Dr. Jay Robertson

Series: "Foundations of Christian Ministry"
Sermon: "A Testimony of God's Grace and Mercy" Part 2
Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:12-17
Memory Verse: Matthew 1:21

Back on December 10:

I. Be Thankful for God's Grace (1:12-14)

Big Idea: Christian, we should be thankful for God's grace, God's gospel, and God's mercy.

II. Be Thankful for God's Gospel (1:15)

- A. "It is a trustworthy saying and deserving full acceptance"—This phrase appears 5 times in the Pastoral Epistles but nowhere else in the New Testament. Two times the formula includes "and deserving full acceptance" (1 Timothy 1:15; 4:9).
- B. Why was Paul stressing this truth in these verses? The false teachers were not accurately handling the Law of God and they were teaching synergism (a works salvation).
- C. "Christ Jesus" was the word order preferred by Paul in the Pastoral Epistles. He used it 24 times compared to 6 uses of "Jesus Christ."
- D. "Christ" is the anointed King who came to redeem sinners, to deliver them from sin's power and punishment.
- E. "Jesus" is the name of the One who has been conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit.
- F. "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).
- G. "Came into the world"—Points us to His Incarnation and preexistence (John 1:1; Isaiah 9:6)
- H. "The world" refers to the world of humanity, blind, lost, spiritually dead, condemned to hell.
- I. "To save sinners"—Paul used this word 29 times in the New Testament, 7 times in the Pastoral Epistles. To save is to rescue from divine wrath.
- J. "Sinners" was a term used by the Jews to refer to the Gentiles (Galatians 2:15), but Jesus used it to refer to all of fallen humanity.
- K. Sinners violate God's Law. We are lawbreakers, sinners by nature (Psalm 51:5).
- L. Lawbreakers who do not turn around are on a collision course with God's judgment. BUT Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. The demands of the Law are only met in Christ.
- M. "Among whom I am foremost"—The grace and mercy God extended to Paul humbled him. He never got over it.

III. Be Thankful for God's Mercy (1:16-17)

- A. Paul "was shown mercy"—He did not get what he deserved.
- B. Paul's point was that if Jesus was patient with him, the foremost of sinners, no one is beyond the reach of God's grace and mercy.
- C. Paul began this passage with gratefulness (1:12) and now he ends it with a doxology (1:17).
- D. The words Paul used to praise God size up the character of God who has the capacity to make good on the stunning promise to save sinners for eternal life.
- E. "The King of the ages"—God is eternal. He has no beginning and no end.
- F. "Immortal"—He will never know death, decay, or loss of strength.
- G. "Invisible"—God can only be known by His self-revelation.
- H. "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation" (Colossians 1:15).
- I. "No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him" (John 1:18).
- J. Hebrews 1:1-3

K. "The only God"—There is no one like God. He is unique. This is a fundamental truth of Scripture.
(Deuteronomy 4:35, 39; 6:4; Isaiah 43:10; 44:6; 45:5-6, 21-22; 46:9; 1 Corinthians 8:4, 6; 1 Timothy 2:5)
L. God alone is worthy of honor (esteem, reverence) and glory (the praise we give God because of who He is) forever and ever. Amen.

Conclusion

- A. Christian, we should be thankful for God's grace, God's gospel, and God's mercy.
- B. If you're not saved, look at 1 Timothy 1:16.
- C. Romans 5:6-11
- D. The Gospel Definition