

I Timothy Sermon #6

Turn in your Bibles to I Timothy 1

Pastoral Epistles – three of those – written to Timothy and Titus to help them with their local churches.

There are many questions/problems that arise in a local assembly that need to be addressed

What we have is authoritative teaching and instruction to give order and guidance for the local church

That teaching is found in these epistles.

I've entitled tonight's message "Paul the Pattern"

I Timothy 1:12

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

I Timothy 1:12-17

Paul the Pattern

We need to think our way through what we have already looked at.

The first 11 verses – think through those verses

Why was this written? Sound doctrine for church conduct

Healthy doctrine for healthy church

I Timothy 3:15

Paul charges Timothy, his partner, co-laborer in the ministry – vs. 3 – variant, heteras
doctrine

Teach no other doctrine

The reason why or the goal of charge – love – self-sacrificing action

That love comes out of a pure heart, good conscience, sincere faith

That's the aim of healthy teaching

Do we realize the impact on people, on a community, on a nation when the Word of
God is compromised?

Do we know what keep us? The Truth.

Helps us, protects us, blesses us – Truth.

The reason for preaching sound doctrine – transforming power of the Word

If you're going to have a church, you must have sound preaching and teaching.

What builds people, what is it that restores, reconciles, replenishes people? Word of
God

Paul gives his own testimony as an illustration of what happens when this goal
is actually met

In verses 14-16, Paul gives us his conversion experience – in verse 13,

pre-conversion

In verse 12, we find the ministry that God gave Paul after his conversion
 – **post-conversion**

Chronologywise – vs. 13 is first

Then vs. 14-16

Then vs. 12

And finally vs. 17

What's the goal of pastoral preaching? _____ agape love

How is that accomplished in the local church?

Now, let's see the goal of pastoral preaching illustrated or demonstrated

Paul has given us the goal – love – now he is illustrating it from his own life.

First, let us look at his pre-conversion life in vs. 13

Vs. 13 – in my past

Ephesians 2 puts it this way: *“Among whom also we all had our former manner of life in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others”* Ephesians 2:3.

I Corinthians 6:11, *“And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye art justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”*

Now, verse 13 gives us four facts about Paul's pre-conversion life.

I. First, he calls himself a blasphemer – which means his speech regarding God was vile and blasphemous – degrading and disrespectful to God

Paul **denied the deity** of Jesus Christ.

I John 4:14-15, *“And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.”*

Paul **refuted the virgin birth** of the Lord.

Luke 1:26-27, 31, *“And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. And behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a Son and shalt call His name Jesus.”*

Paul **denied the resurrection** of Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 15:13-14, 17

“But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain and your faith is also vain. We are yet in our sins if Christ be not risen.”

Paul said things that were blasphemous to God.

It is one thing for a cult to say that – a false religion – a heathen to say that

But when Christians say this, we are in trouble.

Churches, preachers, promote this

II. Secondly, in verse 13, Paul said that he was a persecutor – that refers directly to the Church of Jesus Christ

Remember, Jesus asked Paul at his conversion, “Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?” – implication

That persecuting Christians/Church, Saul/Paul was persecuting Jesus Christ

Acts 8, 9, 22, 26 – record some of these persecutions by Paul

Paul made havoc of the Church

He entered homes and took both men and women – took them to prison

He took forcible action to cause people to blaspheme Jesus Christ – Acts 26:11

“I compelled them to blaspheme.”

He persecuted the Church unto death – Acts 22:5

Paul was a persecutor.

III. Thirdly, it says here in verse 13 that he was injurious

That word means that he was violent – obsessed with violence; sadistic

He got some kind of twisted pleasure in the pain that he caused others

IV. Fourthly, Paul says, “I did it ignorantly in unbelief” – blind, blinded from the Truth

I Corinthians 2:14, *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

II Corinthians 4:3-4, *“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”*

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

See, Paul actually believed he was serving God by stomping about these Jesus lovers and followers. He believed he was serving God.

This pre-conversion life is an example of something.

It is an example of religious obsession without knowledge – vs. 6-7

Church history is full of illustrations of people who have had a religious obsession without knowledge and the result has been the division of the people of God.

To fasten onto a corner of truth violates the spirit of Scripture

If at any time our belief causes us to violate Christlike character or violate the Scripture, it has become an obsession for us.

Pro-life man in Georgia – who blew up abortion clinics and placed the bomb at the Olympic Games.

Fred Phelps is a perfect example of this.

Paul is an example of religious obsession without knowledge

Acts 26:9, *"I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth."*

It was my duty

What an obsession!

Now, in verses 14-16, Paul goes on to describe his conversion.

I have obtained mercy – vs. 13

Grace was abundant – vs. 14 – beyond full

Without grace and mercy – no salvation

Intended as a pattern – vs. 16

Vs. 14-16

Pattern – great purpose for Paul's conversion

God intended him as a pattern

Let me show you how he develops that

He starts out with broad statement that Jesus came to save sinners – that is the purpose for our Christian life with reference to the world

With reference to God – to glorify Him

With reference to one another – to edify

With reference to the world – to save sinners

If Jesus Christ was looking for a sinner of the first rank, Paul says, I was that man and
Jesus saved me

So that if any sinner would come afterward, he could find in me a pattern of God's great
longsuffering.

John Newton wrote "Amazing Grace" – he was a blasphemous man, slave trader

And when John Newton came to Christ, he could see a pattern in the Apostle Paul

Is Paul saying, "I am chief sinner" – does he mean that no one has sinned more or greater than he? No.

When Paul sinned, it was in ignorance – out of zeal for what he believed was God's will
He was in the first rank and God saved him as a great pattern

What is Paul's conversion telling us? This is an example of the lengths of which God will go in salvation

Paul is using himself as an example of what happens when the goal is rightly met in preaching and teaching the Word of God

Paul says I was an example of religious obsession without knowledge and I was an example of the lengths God would go to save a vile sinner.

After all this – vs. 11-12

That's Paul now – post-conversion

Look at what God has done with me. How many of you folks can say that?

Paul says, "I am an example of what God can do with a converted sinner."

Look at the service a converted sinner can render

Several statements

Vs. 11 – Gospel – committed to his trust

As he trekked all over the then known world, he believed he carried a great treasure in his arms

He was willing to go to any length to communicate that treasure

He would suffer any personal injustice in order to give this treasure.

How many of us has God entrusted the Gospel to? Is it treasure? Are we to keep it to ourselves?

Vs. 12 – the Lord enabled him

Where did Paul get the strength to do it? The Lord Jesus gave him his strength.

God will provide strength for us to give the Gospel.

He will always empower us to do this work – we cannot do it.

When someone obeys God's call to serve, God will always equip and enable that person.

The Lord counted him faithful – that means Paul was trustworthy.

Timothy, you be faithful with what God has called you to do.

Vs. 12e – the Lord put him in – literally appointed him

There is a call of God

Is there such a thing as an appointment of the Gospel?

Paul had it and he was put into what?

The ministry – same word as deacon – lowly service – humility

Even the governments of our world are called the ministers of God (Romans 13:4)

It was not an appointment to honor – but to service – nitty-gritty – that was and is the conception of ministry

To minister for God is to serve, serve, serve

Ushers, what do you do? Sunday School teachers, who do you serve?

Nursery workers, what do you do? Deacons, hospitality, janitorial crew?

Do we realize what Paul is saying?

Paul is saying my life is an illustration of the very thing I've told you to do with the people in your assembly.

I was converted because Jesus came to save sinners and that cleansed my heart, freed my conscience, brought an unhypocritical faith into my life

And now I promote love – I love God; I love man

Now, Timothy, you preach so as to clean hearts.

Now, Timothy, you preach so as to clear consciences.

Now, Timothy, you preach so as to sincere faith.

Give the Gospel to the blasphemer, to the injurious, persecutor

God does the work, folks, and He uses us – we need to be faithful.

Everyone of us is here tonight because someone stuck with the major matters of the Word of God

Somebody gave the Gospel

Somebody reached us with the truths that cleansed our hearts, consciences
Everyone is a testimony to that

God help us to stay in the healthy doctrine – mainstream
And we will see the vilest sinners saved

I run into people/visit with people all the time that will know someone in our
congregation in their former manner of life.

*****We are not the same people we used to be.*** Praise God!**

Vs. 17

Paul couldn't go any father without shouting "Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!"

Doxology

And who is Paul talking about in vs. 17?

Don't tell me that Jesus is not God. He is.

The grace of God turned the persecutor into a preacher.

The grace of God turned the murderer into a minister.

The good news is that the Gospel has the power to transform lives.

Timothy, I am an example of why healthy doctrine is important.

Let us stand for closing invitation