

Theme: Salvation is a very personal matter, but it is not a private one. The glory of eternal life is proclaimed in our testimony of the grace of God our Savior, in the inward transformation of our desires and hopes, and in the outward pursuit of good works that exhibit the love we have received.

Background: We are closing with an overview of what we have seen in the Pastoral Epistles.

Introduction: Having spent a year on the details, let's not lose the "big picture." We consider the three overarching themes of the letters: Sound Doctrine – Godliness – Good Works

- I. Sound Doctrine: The issue is addressed directly over 20 times. How do we identify sound doctrine?
  - A. Christ-centered teaching
    1. His saving work
      - a. 1 Timothy 1:15; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5
      - b. Savior/God our Savior - 10 times
    2. His glorious person
      - a. Titus 2:11, 13; 3:4
      - b. The epiphany of...grace, glory, goodness, loving kindness
    3. His resurrection power and glory
      - a. 1 Timothy 3:16; 2 Timothy 1:10; 2:11
      - b. Titus 3:13
  - B. Avoid false teachers
    1. Heed the warnings
      - a. 1 Timothy 1:3ff; 4:1ff; 6:2bff
      - b. Beware! 2 Timothy 3:5; Titus 1:10ff; 2 Timothy 2:17
      - c. NOTE: The honor, praise, glory, work and resurrection of Christ Jesus must be the focus.
    2. Seek godly leaders
      - a. 1 Timothy 3
      - b. Titus 1
  - C. Upholding the Word of God
    1. Your source of truth? The Word of God! 2 Timothy 3:14-17
    2. NOTE: You don't need to know every false doctrine and every false teacher. You need to know the truth!
- II. Godliness
  - A. Defined
    1. *Eusebeia* (godliness)
      - a. Occurs 15 times in NT: 13 in the Pastorals, 9 in 1 Timothy
      - b. "Respect," "reverence"
      - c. Not self-centered but truly God-centered desires and motivations
  - B. Portrayed
    1. In Christ: Godliness "made manifest" – appeared 1 Timothy 3:16!
    2. In us
      - a. In relation to those in authority
        - 1) Church authorities 1 Timothy 5:17
        - 2) Secular authorities 1 Timothy 2:1
      - b. In relation to the world around us
        - 1) Philippians 4:8, 9
        - 2) NOTE: We are tested/challenged at every turn.
      - c. In relation to the body of Christ

- 1) In worship 1 Timothy 2:8-15
- 2) In personal relationships 1 Timothy 5:1-17; Titus 2:1-10

### III. Good Works

- A. The necessary fruit of the work of Christ
  1. Called to good works 14 times
  2. James 2:17
- B. What are good works?
  1. The positive application of the Law and Word of God
  2. *Westminster Larger Catechism*, Questions 103-148

### IV. Conclusion

- A. Put yourself under the sound teaching and sound preaching of the word of God.
- B. Pursue godliness and the fruit of good works. 2 Timothy 1:8-10

We end where Paul began, in 1 Timothy 1:17: "To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."