

## INTRODUCTION

Last week we began together a study through 1 Timothy. I showed you how chapter 3 verses 14 and 15 give a summary of what this letter teaches us:

1 Timothy 3:14-15 These things I write to you ... so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God...

The reference is directly to Timothy regarding his work in the church in Ephesus. By extension, it is for all church pastors in Christ's church everywhere. There is application, then, for the whole church.

There is a way you are to conduct yourself in the house of God. Not just any way will do. It is not left up to you or to me to determine how we are to conduct ourselves. But the Lord Jesus has told us through His apostle Paul how we are to conduct ourselves in the church.

As the Lord's disciples, we love to learn what His will for us is, and learn to obey it. As His church, we know we are commissioned to teach His disciples to obey everything He has commanded us. So, with joy and eagerness we strive to learn how we ought to conduct ourselves in the house of God.

Today we work from the first two verses of the letter, to understand how God our Savior is the source of this instruction, and what blessings there are for those who obey it.

## TEXT

1 Timothy 1:1-2

## BODY

- I. The Source of This Instruction
  - A. You are hearing this from me, a pastor in this church
    1. not a Timothy, not Titus, but just a normal pastor
    2. 2 Timothy 2:1-2 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. (2) And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

B. We received it from Timothy

1. not a prophet, not an apostle
2. yet one who was qualified, and sent by Paul
  - a) Paul's true son in the faith
  - b) a good minister, if he instructs you in these things (1 Tim 4:6)
  - c) someone not to be despised because he is young (1 Tim 4:12)
  - d) a man properly set into the ministry by the laying on of hands of the elders (1 Tim 4:14)

C. He received it from Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ

1. not the Lord Jesus Himself
2. yet one who was His apostle
  - a) chosen by Jesus in person
  - b) the final witness to Jesus risen from the dead
  - c) specifically sent to preach the gospel to the gentiles

D. He received it from Jesus Christ

1. our Lord: one who has every right to command us
2. our hope: not a cruel law giver, but the One who has given His all for us, that we may have a sure hope of great reward when He comes again
3. the Lord Jesus sent His Holy Spirit to work in His apostles so that when they wrote these letters we have in the bible, they were the Word of God, as are the older scriptures of the Old Testament

E. It is ultimately from God

1. our Father: one who has every right to command us, and who loves us as His own adopted sons
2. our Savior: who has shown Himself so at many times in many ways; who then should be obeyed out of all love and gratitude

F. APPLICATION

1. the sin in our flesh rebels against being told what to do and not do
2. the less the person telling us what to do seems worthy of being obeyed, the harder such temptation is to resist
3. the devil is very good at making us ask, "Did God really say that?"
  - a) Brother Dale said we need to do this. Did God really say that?
  - b) Brother Jeff said we must not do that. Did God really say that?
4. resisting such temptation is complicated by the fact that sometimes preachers actually do impose on us things that God has not said! The bible teaches us that it is noble to search the scriptures and make sure the things the preacher says are really true.
5. but when we read this letter together, do not let anything convince you that what it says is not to be obeyed; you might hear it spoken by a mere human pastor; but it is from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, as the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write it

## II. The Blessings in This Instruction

### A. Grace

1. favor
2. unmerited favor
3. the blessings that flow from unmerited favor

### B. Mercy

1. compassion for those in distress
2. Luke 10:30-37

### C. Peace

1. most basically: freedom from war, from fighting
2. your heart not troubled or afraid John 14:27 **Peace** I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
3. orderliness instead of confusion in the meetings of the church 1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion but of **peace**, as in all the churches of the saints.
4. an end to hostility or enmity between God and men who did not have His promises, and between men who did and men who did not have His OT ordinances

Ephesians 2:11-17 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands-- (12) that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (13) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (14) For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, (15) having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, (16) and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. (17) And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

- a) having been aliens from Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having had no hope and being without God in the world; now by the blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross, being reconciled to God
- b) having been separated from the Jews by the fact that they had the ceremonies of the OT law, and the gentiles did not; now Jesus Christ Himself being peace between the two because in His death the OT ceremonies were all abolished, so there is now no separation between Jews and Gentiles in Christ, but the two are made into one new man

#### D. APPLICATION

these wonderfully desirable blessings are to be enjoyed from God's hand largely through the instruction in the scriptures, including this letter

1. we all can express our wishes for someone's welfare in words, or, better yet, pray to God for someone's welfare
2. but our Lord's apostles can express these wishes, praying to God for our welfare, while also writing to us the very word of God by which those wishes are fulfilled, those prayers answered; think how that would be
3. grace
  - a) we who have been saved know that we are saved by God's grace, not by our own goodness or good works
  - b) the Lord's preachers are preaching salvation by grace to sinners; the whole church is living in obedience to Christ, showing the gospel of grace to be true; we are making sure our speech is always full of grace, so we can speak of salvation by grace to anyone who asks
  - c) but God would bestow that saving grace in answer to prayer; so, as we pray for all men to be saved, God will indeed save sinners by His grace
4. mercy
  - a) there are certain people in the church who are in need, because of their special circumstances
  - b) if Timothy teaches the church their responsibilities regarding those, the church will have compassion toward them, and have mercy on them
  - c)
5. peace
  - a) there are men who are wanting to be teachers of the law, but they don't know what they're talking about
  - b) they teach that the OT ceremonies about clean foods and holy days should be observed
  - c) some accept their false teaching; others do not
  - d) now there is enmity in the church between the two groups
  - e) if Timothy charges those men not to teach like that, the enmity that has in fact been removed by Jesus Christ our peace will be removed from the church
  - f) then the church will enjoy from God's hand the peace won for them by our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross

## CONCLUSION

This is the glorious reign of Jesus Christ being exercised here among us. He has given His commands to His subjects, and He expects His own to obey Him. Let us obey Him with all reverence and gratitude.

Here are the very things we long for: grace, mercy, peace from the hand of God. Let us embrace His will for how to enjoy them in His church. Let us receive these great blessings from the generous hand of our heavenly Father.

Let us read and hear the words of this letter for what they really are: the Word of God given to us in love for His glory and for our own benefit.

It cannot be stated too often that how we conduct ourselves in the house of God is all tied to God our Savior and Jesus Christ our Lord.

our instructions are from Him, by apostles sent by Him, by command of God through Him

God our Savior

-we are used to calling Jesus our Savior

-see also 2:3 for "God our Savior"

We'll turn to 2 Timothy often

2 Tim 1:1 by the will of God

according to the promise of life

We'll turn to Titus often

You will be hearing this from Timothy

-not an apostle, not a prophet

-yet my true son in the faith

-a good minister, if he instructs you in these things (1 Tim 4:6)

-someone not to be despised because he is young (1 Tim 4:12)

-a man properly set into the ministry by the laying on of hands of the elders (1 Tim 4:14)

He is hearing this from me, Paul

-not the Lord Jesus Christ Himself

-yet an apostle of Jesus Christ

-by the commandment of God

I have received this from Jesus Christ

-the Lord

-our hope

He has received this from God

-our Savior

-our Father

The Father and the Son are dispensing things to us

-Grace

-Mercy

-Peace e.g. in this church

How? by the Spirit inspiring Paul and the other apostles to write letters to us

We would pray for these things; and indeed they are given by means of this letter

Paul can send, along with the good wishes, the means for them to be realized.

-command certain men to teach no other doctrine

-make all prayers for all men

-choose only blameless men for pastors and deacons

James 2:15-16 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, (16) and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?

In your household the dad and mom have made rules for how things are to be in that house. Sadly, they are imperfect.

Jesus Christ has made a perfect set of laws for us, His church, the house of God. As we learn what they are, and learn to obey them, we find them excellent---in fact, perfect!

Call to Worship: Psalm 112:1

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 45

Sermon: "The Authority of the Letter Established"

Benediction: 2 Timothy 4:22

T 681 I Will Sing of My Redeemer

T 768 Psalm 112 Praise Ye the Lord

G 135 Praise Our God, His Love Eternal

G214 Every Promise