**The Pastorals Epistles: 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus**

***Lesson 1: Paul's Message to His Fellow Workers***

**Series principal Bible verses**:  *1 Timothy 1:15-17: Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.**But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.**Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Bible passages for lesson 1:**  1 Tim. 1:2; Titus 1:4

2 Tim. 1:1-18: Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

2 To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. 4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. 5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 8 So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. 9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, 10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 11 And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. 12 That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. 14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

15 You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.

16 May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. 17 On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. 18 May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.

**Lesson objective:** We should remain steadfast advocates of the grace we receive through Christ who conquers all evils, even death, bringing peace and joy.

**Introduction:** The three books we will be studying are called *pastorals*, books that tell how to shepherd sheep. They were written by the apostle Paul to two young men he had commissioned to work with churches. Like shepherds they were to care for the health and growth of the sheep in a flock. Now, what does this have to do with me? Have I been given this charge? As we will see, some of us have been given this charge as shepherds / elders in the church. But all of us are recipients of the grace that brings life through Christ; and those who receive are to share. So, let us learn what an apostle would say to each of us and to our congregation.

**Main Point 1:** Paul's message was always that God through Christ gives life.

1. Paul has great confidence even in trying times because, as he says, “I know whom I have believed.” Read carefully 2 Timothy1:1, 9 – 12 above. Is this faith in Christ the center point of my life?
 If so, what evidence is there in my life?
2. In 1 Tim.1 Paul speaks of “a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.” 1 Tim. 1:15-17.
 Six times Paul calls a saying “trustworthy.” [1 Tim. 1:15, 3:1, 4:9; 2 Tim. 2:11; Tit. 1:8, 3:8]
 Why is this one “trustworthy”?
 Does my thinking of God end in praise like in this passage?
3. Titus 3:4-7 : “But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, he saved us not by works of righteousness that we have done but on the basis of his mercy, through the washing of the new birth and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us in full measure through Jesus Christ our Savior. And so, since we have been justified by his grace, we become heirs with the confident expectation of eternal life.” This passage along with 2 Tim. 1:9 above say something to me about what I trust.
 What is the difference in believing something is true vs. trusting what it says? [The devils...]
4. All of Paul's writings center on Christ as our Redeemer.
 Do you have another favorite passage on this same theme?

**Main Point 2:** Love and appreciation of God means love and appreciation of others..

1. Paul speaks of both his ancestors and of Timothy's, who helped bring them to faith in Christ. Blessings come to us from God and from those who believe in God.
 Who passed the faith on to you? Do you remember that with true appreciation?
 If you now feel you have “outgrown” any of them, how do you deal with your “superiority”?
2. Why might Timothy be timid about his faith or fail to be forthright in the use of his gifts?
 What should we do in response to these admonitions?
3. Paul tells Timothy of his appreciation for him rather forthrightly.
 Would that not really encourage Timothy?
 How can I do better than I now do in my speaking to others?
4. Notice in verse 7 that “power,” “love,” and “self-discipline” are placed together. But these can sometimes seem to be in conflict. How?

**Main Point 3:** But Paul was also conscious of others who had deserted him

1. Paul seems to show little resentment for whatever they did. See 2 Tim. 1:15 above.
2. But Titus 1:10-16 speaks of some who are “rebellious people, idle talkers, and deceivers.” They are hurting others; so, Titus should rebuke them sharply. Titus 1:13.
3. Now we have to practice “rebuke” along with having “power, love, and self-discipline.”
 How does this make our walk with Christ more complicated?

**Call To Action:** Look back over this lesson and make some decisions about how you should walk with Christ more closely this coming week.

**Conclusion:** What a great blessing to have fellowship with some believers whom we know intimately and with whole congregations in addition!