



1 & 2 Timothy, Titus Sermon Series
Supports: Session 1: Entrusted
Potential Sermon Title: The Glory of the
Gospel Message
Passage: 1 Timothy 1:8-17

Connection to 1 Timothy 1

Paul charges Timothy to faithfully proclaim the truth of the gospel message, which has been entrusted to them. Christ is the only way to salvation, and thus the task of proclaiming Him is of utmost importance.

Introduction/Opening

Many times in life we face what we think are impossible tasks. Yet, these impossible tasks are different for each of us. For instance, it would be impossible for many of us to do brain surgery. But there are those who are trained in such things, and it is their day-to-day reality. Or take learning to drive a car. For most Americans, we learn this in high school, and it's normal. But take a person from a different cultural context and learning to drive a car may feel like an impossible task to them.

While we each have different experiences and find different tasks harder or easier, there is one task that is truly impossible for us—to have forgiveness of sin and salvation apart from Christ.

Outline

1. The Value of the Law (1 Tim. 1:8)

a) The Law is Good

Paul begins with explaining something “we know”—that the law is good. To the person who wants to completely abandon the law, Paul insists that it is good. Others, to whom Paul frequently refers to, wanted to elevate the law, making too much of the law. Both views are incorrect.

In light of this, Paul assures us that the law is good. The term good here also means “useful,” showing the law is still helpful and necessary for believers.

b) Provided One Uses it Legitimately

Now, there is a caveat; the law is good, when it is used rightly. It is useful when we use it for its intended purpose. The law isn't a path to salvation (Rom. 3:27-28), but it does show us our sin (Rom. 7:7-13) and our need for a Savior. Once we have come to Christ, it is used to aid our growth in godliness and sanctification (2 Tim. 3:15-17).

2. The Reality of Sin (1 Tim. 1:9-11)

Paul identified the type of people who need the law—sinners. Since none are righteous (Rom. 3:10), all people need the law. Paul needed the law (v. 13) and so does everyone else who is apart from Christ. Paul saw himself (and Timothy) as having been entrusted by God to preach the gospel to sinners.

3. The Power of the Savior (1 Tim. 1:12-16)

a) Paul's Personal Experience

Paul recaps his life before Christ (as seen in Acts 8 and 9) and uses it as proof of the mercy and grace of Christ. Paul uses this to show that he isn't perfect, and he didn't earn his way to his position as an apostle, but that God's grace is the reason why he was what he was and did what he did. For Paul, as it should be for us, our only hope is Christ for our justification.

b) The Power of Christ to Save the Worst of the Worst

If Christ can save Paul, he can save anyone. There is no one who is too far gone for Christ to reach with His mercy and grace. Paul eliminates any excuses people may have for why people can't be evangelized or why they can't accept the gospel message.

4. The Greatness of our God (1 Tim. 1:17)

Paul's salvation and the power of God to save others brings Paul to a place of worship. Worship is the end goal of the spreading of the gospel, or as John Piper has put it "missions exists because worship doesn't."¹

Conclusion

The glory of the gospel message is that God has the power to save any sinner, and He has promised to do so to any who come to Him by faith and repent of their sins. This gives Christians confidence in sharing the gospel. God can save anyone, and no one is beyond His reach. Let this encourage you in your sharing Christ with others. Also, let's not forget our goal in gospel work is not the glory of man, but of God.

Jacob Dunlow is pastor of Vassar Road Baptist Church in Poughkeepsie, New York. He is a graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Ed.D, M.Div.) and Old Dominion University (BS). Jacob also serves as an adjunct faculty member at Liberty University and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. Jacob and his wife, Laura, have two children, Elijah and Marcy.

¹ John Piper, "Let the Nations be Glad" Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.