

“A Living Testimony”

1 Timothy 1:12-17

10/27/20

OVERVIEW

Big Idea: You cannot outrun God’s grace!

Main Points:

- Life-changing strength comes from Jesus alone (v.12-14)
 - **ILL:** NFL player honors parents & remembers where he came from
 - **APP: Q:** Are you looking to Jesus for life-changing strength, or yourself?
 - The Gospel reveals hope through grace (v.15-16)
 - **ILL:** Child needs parents to provide, protect, & be patient
 - Once older, they look back & remember/understand why parents did what they did → (link testimony to witness)
 - **APP: Q:** Are you sharing your testimony—the gift of grace in your own life—to point people to Jesus (or build yourself up)?
 - Transformed people proclaim God’s glory (v.17)
 - **ILL:** When in love you can’t help but tell/show everyone
 - Old saying: “Love is blind, but the neighbors aren’t”
 - **APP: Q:** Do you have a desire to share the goodness of God with others (i.e. “outpouring” & “overflowing”)?
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OUTLINE

WELCOME:

(1 minute)

INTRO:

(2 minutes)

- **Illustration:** Terminally ill patient given cure
 - Feels personal pain & sees hardship on family
 - Freely given cure + unlimited access to help others
 - Life mission/desire = to share w/ others!!!
 - B/c...Who would NOT want to help cure others after receiving cure themselves?!

RECAP & CONTEXT:

(3-4 minutes)

- **Where we started:** Timothy to correct & lead out of love
 - Paul introduces himself as an Apostle
 - Paul appointed Timothy to correct/lead Ephesians
 - Paul reminds timothy LOVE is purpose for instruction
 - Paul points to false teachers/doctrine to deal w/ first
- **Where we are going** (purpose for letter): Book Overview
 - False Teachers & Doctrinal importance
 - Instructions on Prayer
 - Roles/function of men and women
 - Leadership Qualifications
 - Spiritual Warfare
 - ****Pointing people to Jesus****
- **Where we are now:** Current Situation
 - Paul points to his testimony to explain God's grace
 - Paul outlines the Gospel message (v.15)
 - Paul praises the Lord for this "miraculous miracle"
- **Sermon Title:** "A Living Testimony" (*hence title*)
- **Transition:** ...

BIG IDEA:

(1 minute)

- **Big Idea:** You cannot outrun God's grace!
 - There's hope for **YOU** this morning b/c no matter who you are or what you've done, you cannot outrun God's grace if he is calling you to himself!

PRAY:

(1 minute)

READ:

(1 minute)

- Text: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

¹² I, [Paul], give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful, appointing me to the ministry— ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an arrogant man. But I received mercy because I acted out of ignorance in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ **This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”**—and I am the worst of them. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, so that in me, the worst of them, Christ Jesus might demonstrate his extraordinary patience as an example to those who would believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

PREVIEW:

(1 minute)

- **3 Main Points:**
 - 1 – Life-changing strength comes from Jesus alone
 - 2 – The Gospel reveals hope through grace
 - 3 – Transformed people proclaim God’s glory

PILLAR 1: Life-changing strength comes from Jesus alone (10 minutes)

(v.12)

- Paul **FIRST** gave thanks to Christ...

- Paul acknowledged Christ as the giver of his “*strength*”
- Paul notes Jesus considered him “faithful” AND “appointed him to the ministry”

- Paul did NOT choose ministry -- God called Paul to ministry

- **Acts 9:15** → (Jesus affirms Paul to Ananias)
“But the Lord said to [Ananias], ‘Go, for this man, Paul, is my chosen instrument to take my name to Gentiles, kings, and Israelites.’”

- Paul could NOT *do* “ministry” w/o God -- only by God’s grace & equipping

- Paul understood: ****God’s GRACE is what enables him/us to have FAITH & OBEY****
- Strength is not from within, but from God
- We have no strength to offer (humans = innate sinful nature)
- **APPLICATION:** “Self-help” books are contrary to the Gospel

- **2 Cor. 3:5** → *“It is not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God.”*

- **2 Peter 1:3** → *“His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.”*

- Paul pointed to his personal testimony (*experience*)
 - Paul's actions (**witness**) matched his words (**doctrine**)
 - Everyone saw & knew Paul was different
 - Paul's heart/life change stems from God's grace
 - ****God's GRACE enabled Paul's BELIEF****
 - Theological term: **JUSTIFICATION**
 - Bridge term: **the "Miraculous Miracle"**
 - Paul's eyes are open to his sin!
 - Paul realizes he needs to repent & follow Jesus as Lord of his life

- **ILLUSTRATION:** NFL player buying their mom a house w/ first paycheck
 - First, thanks the person who got them to point in life
 - Go back & remember where it all started
 - Don't point to their work (e.g. weight room, practice, highlight reel), but to the work of those who enabled them
 - **Result:** Outpouring of gifts & celebration for mother's sacrifice to get them to that point

(v.13)

- How bad Paul WAS...
 - Points to his **(1)** sinful nature & **(2)** specific sins
 - Self-proclaimed: "*Blasphemer, persecutor, & arrogant man*"
 - He WAS an **active leader** in destroying the church

- How good God IS...
 - Points to God's **MERCY**
 - Paul IS now an **active leader** in the church b/c of God's mercy
 - Paul had sincere beliefs, but was ignorant to *the Truth*
- **APPLICATION:** Sincere belief, but wrong
 - You can believe something, but does NOT mean it's true

(v.14)

- God's grace "overflowed" to Paul
 - God's grace cannot be stopped or contained
 - God freely gave His grace and the "faith and love that are in Christ Jesus" to Paul
 - God opened Paul's eyes to the Truth (Jesus Christ)
 - Paul would not have come to God on his own
- ****God's GRACE always produces FAITH & LOVE in Jesus****

PILLAR 2: The Gospel reveals hope through grace

(10 minutes)

(v.15)

- Trust the Gospel message of Jesus!
 - **NOTICE:** Paul always points to the Gospel (Foundation)
 - The Gospel message is "trustworthy" & "deserving of full acceptance"
 - **PURPOSE:** Jesus came to save sinners!

(v.15) “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”

- The Gospel > False Teachers & teachings (v.3-11)
- Paul is “the worst of them”
 - Paul states he is the worst of all sinners
 - Emphasizes there’s no go in/of Paul alone
 - “I AM the WORST” = present tense
 - ****Example of recognizing AND repenting of sins****

(v.16)

- God’s Grace = Mercy
 - “But I received mercy” → Nothing Paul did could outrun God’s GRACE
 - Proves God is all powerful – God can save “the worst”
 - Remember (v.2) → Paul tells Timothy to lead w/ “GRACE, MERCY, & PEACE.”
- God’s Grace + Mercy = God’s Patience
 - ****WHY: “For this reason” → As an example to others of God’s *patience*****
 - Our lives should be a living example to the world
 - We should exemplify a changed heart & life (*overflow*)
- **ILLUSTRATION:** Children need parents
 - Parents provide, protect, & are patient w/ their children
 - Once older, the child looks back & understands why parents did what they did
 - The parents’ love & mercy set example for child
 - Child represents/proves their good parents & parenting
- ****You must repent & believe in Jesus****

- Paul's example + words = repentance & belief
- Knowing does **NOT** = Believing
- Believing = Faith
- Faith = Surrender
- Surrender = Turn from worldliness to godliness
("abandonment")

READ: Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*

"The reason some of us are such poor specimens of Christianity is because we have no Almighty Christ. We have Christian attributes and experiences, but there is no abandonment to Jesus Christ."

BUT, true surrender means...

"In our abandonment we give ourselves over to God just as God gave Himself for us, without any calculations. The consequences of abandonment never enter into our outlook because our life is taken up in Him."

READ: Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift— ⁹ not from works, so that no one can boast.

- **APPLICATION:**
 - (Link testimony to witness)

- **Q:** Are you sharing your testimony—God’s grace in your life—to point people to Jesus (or build yourself up)?
- **Q:** Are you representing your heavenly Father well and showing others His Grace, Mercy, & Patience?
- **Q:** Does your life reflect a change and God’s “miraculous miracle” inside you?

PILLAR 3: Transformed people proclaim God’s glory

(6 minutes)

(v.17)

- Paul can’t help but praise God for grace in his life
 - Begins declaring God’s glory
 - Paul’s response is an “overflow” of joy in remembering God’s grace in his life (i.e. from death to life)
- Understanding who God is...
 - The King = No one higher of authority or power
 - Eternal = Forever & never ending
 - Immortal = Immune of decay or corruption (PERFECT)
 - Invisible = Unseen, yet seen in Jesus
 - Only King = No rival or competition
- What God deserves...
 - Honor + Glory → FOREVER AND EVER
- **ILLUSTRATION:** Romantic love comes naturally
 - When in love you can’t help but tell/show everyone
 - Old saying: “Love is blind, but the neighbors aren’t”
 - No one has to tell you to act excited & happy

- Joy and desire “overflow” out of you
- **APPLICATION:**
 - **Q:** Do you have a desire to share the goodness of God with others?
 - **Q:** Is there an “outpouring” & “overflow” of God’s grace in your life that is evident to others?

REITERATE MAIN POINTS:

(1 minute)

- 1 – Life-changing strength comes from Jesus alone
- 2 – The Gospel reveals hope through grace
- 3 – Transformed people proclaim God’s glory

CLOSE:

(2 minutes)

- Paul begins **AND** ends passage by giving **PRAISE** to Jesus
 - **For Christians:** Remember who you once were when God opened your heart & gave you His grace — Now, give God praise, thank Him for this undeserved gift, & live on mission to share with others!
 - **For Unbelievers:** If you are feeling conviction, this may be the Lord revealing Himself to you — So, cry out to Him with your hearts and repent of your sin, place your faith in Jesus—believing He came and lived a perfect life, died on the cross for your sins, and was raised 3 days later—and grow in a relationship with him by following His ways (i.e. read a Bible)

PRAY:

(1 minute)