

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY (1 TIMOTHY)

BY GRANT MINOR

IN THIS STUDY WE ARE SEEKING TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH, ITS MISSION, AND OUR RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN IT. PAUL HAS WRITTEN THIS LETTER TO HIS MINISTRY PARTNER, TIMOTHY, WHOM HE HAS LEFT IN CHARGE IN THE CITY OF EPHESUS. DIVISIONS HAVE THREATENED TO BREAK UP THE CHURCH AND LEAD SOME ASTRAY AND SO PAUL WRITES TO GIVE TIMOTHY THE CHARGE OF PROTECTING SOUND DOCTRINE.

LAST SUNDAY, WE FINISHED THE FIRST CHAPTER OF 1 TIMOTHY! BELOW ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LESSONS ON THIS CHAPTER:

LESSON 1 (1:1-11)

- PAUL WRITES TO EMPOWER AND EQUIP TIMOTHY FOR LEADING THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS WITH AN EMPHASIS ON PROTECTING SOUND DOCTRINE. IN ORDER TO PROTECT SOUND DOCTRINE WE MUST KNOW WHAT IT *IS* SO THAT WE CAN KNOW WHAT *IS NOT*.
- A DEFINITION FOR SOUND DOCTRINE: THAT WHICH ALIGNS WITH THE WILL AND GLORY OF GOD AND IS IN AGREEMENT WITH THE WORDS AND ACTIONS OF CHRIST.
- THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW: TO MAKE US AWARE OF OUR SIN
- PAUL'S MOTIVATION, THAT HE WANTS THE CHURCHES TO SHARE, IS UNITY AND LOVE AMONGST ALL BELIEVERS THAT COMES FROM A PURE HEART, A GOOD CONSCIENCE, AND A SINCERE FAITH. (1:5)

LESSON 2 (1:12-20)

- PAUL AND TIMOTHY BOTH WERE CALLED BY GOD TO DO HIS WORK. WE LIKEWISE, WHO ARE IN CHRIST, HAVE BEEN CALLED TO DO GOD'S WORK (PROTECTING SOUND DOCTRINE, SETTING A GODLY EXAMPLE TO OTHERS, PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL, ETC.)
- PAUL'S LIFE AFTER ENCOUNTERING JESUS WAS RADICALLY DIFFERENT THAN HIS LIFE BEFOREHAND. THE SAME SHOULD BE TRUE FOR US: OUR LIVES SHOULD BE NOTICEABLY DIFFERENT BECAUSE OF OUR FAITH AND TRUST IN JESUS!
- TIMOTHY HAS BEEN COMMISSIONED BY PAUL TO "FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT". WHAT PAUL MEANS IS THAT TIMOTHY HAS BEEN EQUIPPED FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND THAT THE WAR FOR SOULS IS WAR WORTH WAGING. WE TOO ARE CALLED TO "FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT", TO BE ENGAGED IN THE SAME WAR!

VERSE MEMORIZATION (1 TIMOTHY 1:15):

THE SAYING IS TRUSTWORTHY AND DESERVING OF FULL ACCEPTANCE, THAT CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS, OF WHOM I AM THE FOREMOST.

Wednesday Night Ministry (Last week)

HABAKKUK 3

THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK CLOSES WITH A PRAYER FROM ITS AUTHOR. THE PROPHET'S POETIC PRAYER WALKS THROUGH THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL AND REMINDS ALL OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS, POWER, DELIVERANCE, SALVATION, AND JUDGMENT. DESPITE ALL OF THE SIN THAT HABAKKUK HAS WITNESSED HAPPENING AMONGST THE PEOPLE OF GOD (REMEMBER HIS HEARTBREAK AND BURDEN IN HIS OPENING COMPLAINT TO GOD IN CHAPTER ONE), AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT GOD HAS CHOSEN TO USE THE EVIL NATION OF BABYLON TO DISCIPLINE HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE, HABAKKUK HAS CHOSEN TO FIND HIS JOY AND STRENGTH IN GOD BECAUSE TIME AND TIME AGAIN GOD HAS PROVEN HIMSELF FAITHFUL.

AS YOU REFLECT ON OUR TIME IN THIS BOOK CONSIDER THESE THINGS:

GOD'S GOODNESS IS NEVER IN QUESTION WHEN WE CONSIDER THE COUNTLESS EXAMPLES OF EVIL IN OUR WORLD. GOD IS NOT SLOW IN EXERCISING HIS JUDGEMENT, INSTEAD, **HE IS IS MERCIFUL AND ABOUNDING IN STEADFAST LOVE** AND HOLDS BACK HIS WRATH IN ORDER THAT ALL MIGHT REPENT AND BELIEVE.

HABAKKUK, LIKE CHRIST, HAD **A BURDEN FOR THE LOST**. THIS IS A BURDEN THAT WE TOO SHOULD TAKE ON IN ALL PLACES. AFTER ALL, JESUS TOLD US THAT THE SECOND GREATEST COMMANDMENT, AFTER "LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, SOUL, MIND, AND STRENGTH", IS TO "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF".

GOD CALLS OUT THE PRIDEFUL IN CHAPTER TWO, WHO THINK THEY ARE SAFE AND HAVE NO NEED OF REPENTANCE. THE FLIP-SIDE, THE RIGHTEOUS, ARE THOSE WHO HEAR THE WARNING AND TAKE ACTION TO FLEE FROM FROM THE COMING DESTRUCTION. **THIS IS THE HEART OF TRUTH FAITH: BELIEF ACCOMPANIED BY ACTION**. OUR FAITH IS NOT PASSIVE BUT ACTIVE. IF WE CLAIM TO BE CHRISTIANS THAN THE OUR WORDS AND ACTIONS SHOULD REFLECT THAT TRUTH.

OFTEN TIMES WHEN LIFE IS NOT GOING THE WAY WE WANT WE CRY OUT TO GOD AND QUESTION WHY HE IS DOING SOMETHING A CERTAIN WAY. HABAKKUK CRIED OUT THE SECOND TIME BECAUSE HE DID NOT LIKE GOD'S PLAN FOR DEALING WITH JUDAH'S SIN. NEVERTHELESS, AS GOD REMINDED HIM, GOD IS ALWAYS GOOD AND HIS PLANS ARE ALWAYS JUST, AND THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN FOR THE GOOD OF HIS PEOPLE. TOO OFTEN WHEN WE FIND OURSELVES IN TOUGH SITUATIONS WE DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO FIX IT OR GET OUT AS FAST AS WE CAN WHICH IS NOT ALWAYS WHAT WE NEED TO DO. INSTEAD, SOMETIMES GOD SIMPLY WANTS US TO REMAIN STEADFAST, TO ENDURE, TO **FIND OUR JOY AND STRENGTH IN HIM ALONE**.

COMING UP



Senior Sunday.....May 5

Last Day of School.....May 24

Hello Summer! (Wet Kickball).....May 25

Falls Creek Parent-Student Meeting.....May 31

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MINISTRY

JOB LESSON 1 (1ST)

6:00 FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

6:30 START TIME

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY

1 TIMOTHY

9:45 START TIME

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OUR MINISTRY**



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