

- b. His invisibility. This is so contrary to the idolatry of the day. Elsewhere God is figured as noncorporeal (cf. Col. 1:15; Heb. 11:27).
- c. His singularity. The abiding incomparability of God is thus noted. There is none like Him. He alone is God! The Christian's position is that he has a unique God! For Paul and all who follow in his train--the message of redemption is related to the one and only God. All other representations are untrue!

Paul urges eternal "honour and glory" unto this God. Why? Because He has designed the redemption of the soul through Christ. This combination in doxology is found only here and in Rev. 5:12, 13.

Conclusion

What will YOU do with this message of God's measureless glory and grace? It has no equal, but it is useless to you until you personally receive it into your own heart. Don't say you are too evil. Don't feel you are not worthy. Don't give a thousand other excuses. Just simply invite Christ into your life. He will accept your request to come in (Rev. 3:20). Amen.

Notes

THE BOOK OF FIRST TIMOTHY

"A Faithful Saying"

1 Timothy 1:15-17

Introduction

1. There is nothing like a word on which you may count. Today this is a hard item to find! Mistrust is rampant in the world today.

2. But the Bible is full of sayings which can be trusted. Indeed, God Almighty prefixes certain of His truths with these words "faithful saying" just to be sure we really take notice of them. There are five of them in the Pastoral epistles (1 Tim. 1:15; 3:1; 4:9-10; 2 Tim. 2:11; Titus 3:8).

3. The "faithful saying" of our text concerns the salvation of the soul. Indeed, the redemption of the soul of man to be the possession of God forever is the message which has no equal. Three reasons make this true. Hearken to them:-

1. BECAUSE OF ITS UNIVERSAL APPLICATION v. 15.

"worthy of all acceptance."

What a mighty and broad word that is! The message concerning the redemption of the soul is something which is so reliable that it commands the worthy acceptance of all! Just a careful look at the content of the saying will convince you that it is universally acceptable and worthy of your interest. Consider these 3 words:-

- a. World. This is where Christ Jesus came! Lots of people had the name "Jesus" but were unnoticed. Linked with "Christ," He is the unique God-Man Who came into the earth! What a mystery of divine consequence. It is beyond explanation, but not beyond experience. There is but ONE Who is world-wide in His Person--the Lord Jesus Christ.

He is at once the Messiah and the Saviour. Everything He has been associated with has been adorned by eternal glory.

b. Sinners. But why did He come into the world? The answer is given: to save sinners. This was His errand upon earth. What a mighty and revealing truth. The word "salvation" means "health." Hence, He came into the world to seek the "health" of all sinners. Since all are sinners, He has come to bring what everyone has lacked. This is why the Almighty has concerned Himself with the Atom! In spite of our insignificance, He has had one overpowering reason--the spiritual health of all. Consider some pertinent texts: Rom. 5:6, 8, 10; John 10:11.

c. I. This is a grand thought. From the mass of the world, Paul diminuates his message and finally comes to the thought that "He came for me!" The only helpful manner to accept this astounding statement of Paul is to take it as it sounds: He is the first in rank! It is a sober statement of fact. What an amazing expression of divine grace that God should send His Son into the world in order to deal with the worst case of sinning and bring it back to health! See Luke 19:10).

2. BECAUSE OF ITS PERSONAL APPLICATION v. 16.

"I obtained mercy"

The reason Paul received mercy is a fantastic one indeed. Being the first ranking sinner, God wanted to do something special with him. Therefore, he obtained mercy from God. The aorist passive form of the verb is that which shows that what God did for Paul was entirely outside of himself. This is the way it has always been in the matter of salvation. Scores of verses underline His work in the life and not our own

(cf. Eph. 2:8, 9). But just why did he obtain mercy? Consider these two reasons Paul lists:-

a. To prove God's longsuffering. The verb used by the Apostle here is one which magnifies the grace of God. God is all longsuffering. He is patient with men. He can be stretched far beyond human limits! You can't exhaust His willingness to wait on you. Hence, with Paul as the first ranking sinner, God's longsuffering was proved. It was dynamically shown. Here is a genuine case in point!

b. To provide God's visual aid. Someone might object that he could not know if God would meet him in the depths of sin. So He saved Paul to give an example of one whom He did save and would do the same for others! Paul is a sample of the kind of sinners God can and does save! No one can ever afterwards say that the gracious invitation from God cannot be heeded by reason of the greatness of his sin. Mark well that the Word is explicit here. Those who do believe on Him get eternal life. The Greek preposition following the verb "believe" underscores the sure basis for one's faith (Christ our Lord).

3. BECAUSE OF ITS ETERNAL DEVOTION v. 17.

In view of the wonderful statements about redemption, it is natural that a doxology follows. This goes along with other portions of the Word (Luke 15:7). The theme of praise is focused on "the King eternal." Actually, the word "eternal" is better rendered "ages" and indicates His creative activity of God in the universe (Heb. 11:3). Three wonderful statements are made about God:

a. His immortality. Actually, this notes His incorruptibility. Paul only applies this word to God in his writings (cf. Rom. 1:23).