

1 Timothy (Lesson 2: Verses 12 - 20)

Review of Lesson 1: (Verses 1 - 11)

Previously, Paul had been highlighting to Timothy the dangers of the heretics / false teachers, and to “extinguish” their efforts to permeate the assembly with their toxic doctrines, teaching, and philosophies which irreverence and blaspheme the Truth of God. The heretics were aggressively promoting the doctrine that Salvation came by perfectly adhering to the Law given by God through Moses (Legalism) and that Salvation came by special knowledge (Gnosticism) instead of by Grace... “by grace ye are saved through faith” (in Jesus Christ). These false teachers were using the Law in an hateful, irreverent “unlawful” manner - - they distorted God’s Purpose concerning His Law given through His servant Moses: The Purpose of the Law was for Man (Sinner) to receive enlightenment or “sight” of His disobedience and sinfulness toward God, to confess his sinfulness and repent (turn) to God, and to accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ - - Acknowledging that Jesus’ Blood Sacrifice on the Cross has saved us from the Law’s bondage and eternal condemnation of our sins.

These Judiazers, “legalists”, heretics, and toxic false teachers were loveless, impure in their hearts, ignorant, mentally unstable and consumed by their own carnal, ungodly motives. These cruel, divisive, and deceptive hypocrites sought to hold others accountable to standards that they could never meet themselves... “Therefore by the deeds of the Law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the Law is the knowledge of sin” (Romans 3:20). “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the Law: for by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified” (Galatians 2:16).

Verse 12

Paul begins within this sequence of verses (12 - 17) highlighting his own conversion (Acts 9) and that it was not through the “perfect performance” of the Law, but his conversion came by the Grace of God. He attempts to make panoramic that He did not look to the Law for Salvation - - the Law convicted him of his sin. His own experience of Conversion through the Grace of Jesus Christ is what provided him Salvation! He sincerely thanks the Lord Jesus for His Grace toward him and that the Lord not only saved him from the condemnation of sin but counted (considered, esteemed, deemed) Paul to be a faithful servant who would minister and preach / teach the Gospel with a spirit of excellence and bring glory to the name of the Lord, not shame. The Lord esteemed Paul as a “sanctified vessel of honor” (1 Thessalonians 4:5) who would be a “good steward” regarding God’s Word and God’s People... “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (1 Peter 4:10). Paul intends to make it transparent that he was not worthy of God’s Grace and knew the Law would not have shown him any Grace, but the Law would have condemned Paul to death - - when there is sin, death must follow for God required blood in exchange for disobedience... “O death, where is your victory? O hell where is your sting? For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. How we thank God, who gives us victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (1 Corinthians 15:55-57) NLT

Verse 13

Paul confesses his sinfulness and offenses against the Lord as a former blasphemer, persecutor, and “injurious.” As a blasphemer he spoke irreverently, disrespectfully, evilly against the Lord Jesus Christ and His followers (the Way), and as a persecutor (one who oppress others persistently with ill-treatment by force or authority) Paul was zealous in putting Christians to death for he was convinced this belief called Christianity was a threat to Judaism, and it was not from God. Paul delighted in committing oppressive, cruel, violent, vicious, abusive (injurious) acts against the Believers. His intent was to bring injury not only upon their bodies, minds, emotions, and hope, but to injure or obliterate the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and prevent Christianity from proliferating. Paul also confesses that with zeal or great passion he persecuted Christians and intensely rebelled against the will of God from a position of ignorance (lack of knowledge / understanding) and unbelief (faithlessness). Paul truly believed he was performing God’s service and defending God’s honor by devoting his energy in attacking the Christian faith, and hunting down and killing Christians (as a wild animal). He was convinced that they were enemies of God (Jehovah - Old Testament).

Nevertheless, Paul gloriously testifies of his personal experience of the Lord’s Mercy and Grace - - Paul received Mercy (God’s undeserved compassion, abundant kindness, forgiveness) in that he did not get the Judgment from God that the Law stated he deserved and that Judgment was the death penalty. Paul also received and experienced God’s “Amazing” Grace (God’s undeserved favor) in an overwhelming way - - Paul met the Lord Jesus Christ personally on his way to Damascus (to persecute more Christians) and the Lord Jesus Christ gave Paul Salvation because Paul “believed on the Lord Jesus Christ”(Acts 16:31), The Lord Delivered Paul from the “bondage of ignorance”, removed the physical and spiritual “scales” from his eyes (blindness) and filled him with the Holy Ghost... “And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forewith, and arose, and was baptized” (Acts 9:17-18). What Mercy, what Grace!!!! For instead of receiving the death penalty from God, he received the greatest “calling” - - to serve the Lord through the preaching of the Gospel! The Lord Jesus Transformed Paul from being an “annihilator” of the Gospel into an “ambassador” of the Gospel (Representative of Jesus Christ). Paul was Transformed from the greatest persecutor of Christianity to the greatest evangelist of Christianity, and greatest Apostle!

Verse 14

Paul testifies again of God’s Amazing and Abundant Grace! (Abundant: Abounding, Rich, Overflowing). Paul was so thankful and grateful to the Lord for His Mercy and His Grace that Paul was truly “overwhelmed” concerning the Lord’s Generosity toward him! And in reciprocation (a return for something given or done) of God’s Love concerning him, Paul was overwhelmed and moved within his heart from hate toward the Lord Jesus to loving the Lord with “all his, heart, soul, and mind” (Matthew 22:27) - - he was Transformed from being faithless (unbelieving) concerning Christ to a faithful servant who completely devoted his life to Jesus Christ and His Gospel (2 Corinthians 11:22-32).

Paul went from a position where the passion he had to destroy the Church of God in Christ, turned into a passion to construct (build) and proliferate (multiply) the Church of God through Christ. This is one of the many reasons why Paul was so zealous against the heretics and false teachers - - he knew that if they were successful in their efforts as Legalists (Philosophy that Salvation comes through perfect performance of the Law) and Gnostics (Philosophy that Salvation comes through having "special knowledge"), the Church of God in (through) Jesus Christ would be severely hindered by the destructive devices of Satan working through these heretics and false teachers. Who could speak about this with more clarity and experience than the Apostle Paul himself - - During the period in which he persecuted and attempted to destroy the Church of God in (through) Christ, the Apostle himself as "Saul" was an heretic because he rejected Salvation and the Grace of God which came through Jesus Christ by having FAITH in Jesus Christ!

It was imperative in Paul's heart that he made an indelible (Incapable of being removed or permanent) imprint upon Timothy's heart that these people were no "angels of light"... (2 Corinthians 10:10-15 NLT) "As surely as the Truth of Christ is in me, I will never stop boasting about this...But I will continue doing this to cut the ground out from under the feet of those who boast that their work is like ours. These people are false apostles. They have fooled you by disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. But I am not surprised! Even Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light. So it is no wonder his servants can also do it by pretending to be godly ministers. In the end they will get every bit of punishment their wicked deeds deserve." We can be certain that regardless of what type of ungodly, wicked devices and efforts Satan attempts to use to destroy God's Church through Jesus Christ, they will NEVER succeed...For the Lord Jesus said, "...upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell SHALL NOT PREVAIL against it" (St. Matthew 16:18).

Verse 15

In order to empower Timothy in battling these heretics and their ignorant, blasphemous doctrines, Paul emphasizes and reaffirms to Timothy the TRUTH and FACT that: "CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS!" Salvation comes by God's Grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8) - - Not by having unrealistic, incapable perfect obedience to the Law, nor by having special knowledge and arrogant intellect. Paul declares this fact that Jesus came into the world to save sinners is "faithful" or true, and is worthy of all acceptance - - Meaning that men should believe this with all their heart, having NO DOUBT, and demonstrate complete, unmovable trust in the Lord that the Lord came to the world to offer everyone Salvation by believing in Him and having faith in Him... "For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not his into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (St. John 3:16-18). This is the very "heart" of the Gospel - - Christ Jesus, the One who is Lord (Deity) and dwelt with the Father in Eternity (St. John 1:1-3), became Flesh or Human (St. Matthew 1:20-21), and was the Sacrifice for Man's sins through the shedding of His Holy Blood to become Man's Saviour. (St. Matthew 27; St. Mark 15; St. Luke 23; St. John 19)

Here exists one of the MAJOR differences between Christianity and other false (paganistic), man-made religions: First, Christianity was Created by the Creator Himself - - no man “invented” or “created” Christianity. The Truth came by the Godhead (The Father, The Son, The Holy Ghost) and not by the mind of a man... “All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God” (1 Tim. 3:16); “...no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private (pertaining to self) interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time (at any time) by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:20-21). Second, no other religion nor pagan / fake god can offer any man’s soul Salvation - - ONLY Christ Jesus (The Lamb of God) can give men SALVATION... “Neither is there Salvation in any other: for there is NONE OTHER NAME under heaven given among men, whereby we MUST BE SAVED” (Acts 4:12); “And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is ABOVE EVERY NAME: That at the name of JESUS every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phillipians 2:8-11).

Paul further expounded to Timothy these false teachers were beasts and exhorted Timothy to...(Phillipians 3:2) “Beware of the dogs, the evil workers, the concision (mutilators)” and don’t be deceived by the heretics, false teachers, these doters (mentally ill, suffering from mental deterioration) who not only seek to mutilate your bodies (Salvation through perfect performance of the Law - includes circumcision), but seek to mutilate your hearts (minds) through teaching toxic, venomous, caustic, doctrines; they were without a conscience... “Speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron” (1 Tim. 4:1-2). Christianity’s foundation is that man has no power or ability to “save himself” from his sins nor sinful nature - - the Saving is done by Jesus Christ and Him alone! “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit” (1 Peter 3:18).

Paul confessed and declared that he was the “chief” (worst, first in line) of sinners - - HUMILITY!!! The Lord Transformed Paul from an arrogant, self-righteous, Christian butchering beast into an Apostle filled with great love, reverence and great humility toward Christ. When the “scales” fell from his eyes (Acts 9) Paul clearly saw his sinfulness and transgressions and he abandoned his “vain glory” and humbled himself to be one who glorified God. In all the Apostle Paul did, he sought to humble himself that God would be glorified. Look at Paul’s humility... (1 Corinthians 15:9-10a) “For I am the least of the apostles that I am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am...”; (Ephesians 3:8) “Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.” Paul makes transparent his consciousness regarding his sins and made no effort to “cover” or “hide” them. He positioned himself by Confession of his sins to receive God’s Grace: “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” (Proverbs 28:13). The Lord’s heart responds (softens) toward those who are humble and honors him, not the arrogant (wicked): “The Lord is far from the wicked: but He heareth the prayer of the righteous” (Proverbs 15:29).

Pride is one of the seven characteristics that the Lord hates (Proverbs 6:16-19) and God will not respond to arrogance - - Reference St. Luke 18:10-14 (The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican). The Pharisee was self-righteous and without conscious regarding his sins, however, the publican was very conscious of his sins and sincerely sought the Lord for forgiveness - - The Lord stated that the Publican went home justified (forgiven), not the Pharisee! (How interesting that Paul himself was a Pharisee). Of course, who is the Ultimate Example of humility? Yes, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the Perfect Example of humility - - He gave His Blood and Life WILLINGLY as the Son of God to Atone for the sins of Mankind. The Lord was not forced nor was His Life taken from Him... "Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father" (St. John 10:17-18). If we are to have the "character of Christ" and represent Christ with "excellence", we must practice and seek to "perfect" the spirit of humility - - If we want the Lord to Respond, we must be humble, sincere, and reverent! (Thought: Anyone who cannot acknowledge their wrong, be sorry, and repent of their wrong cannot have a Relationship with the Lord. Acknowledging sins, being sorry for the sins, and repenting of the sins is God's first Requirement in having Relationship with Him.

Verse 16

Paul powerfully makes vivid why he was shown Mercy by the Lord Jesus Christ - - So that the Lord could Divinely use Paul as a "pattern" (exhibit or example) of the His longsuffering (great patience) with even the most egregious (blatant) sinners and His Willingness to forgive and give them Eternal Salvation. Paul's position was that once he would testify to others of how great of a sinner he was (the chief of sinners) and yet received God's Mercy, Grace and Salvation, then others would realize, regardless of the depth of their sinfulness, they also could receive God's Mercy, Grace and Eternal Salvation by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul again references God's Requirement of "belief" - - In order for one to receive Salvation through Jesus Christ, one must believe and trust in Jesus Christ and His Gospel knowing that Jesus died for Mankind's sins, was buried, and Resurrected from the grave on the third day IS the undeniable Truth. And those who accept God's Plan of Salvation through His Son Jesus Christ, without doubt, will be rewarded with an eternal dwelling with the Lord (Heaven) and not dwell eternally separated from Jesus (Hell).

As Paul stated in v. 15, "this is a faithful (true) saying, and worthy of all acceptance." Any soul who believes this with their whole heart is not "taking a chance" - - this is the TRUTH of God and it is an irrefutable fact! It is impossible to deny or disprove - - The TRUTH of God is indisputable, beyond doubt, definitive, decisive, certain, and right... "For the word of the Lord is RIGHT; and ALL His works are done in TRUTH" (Psalm 33:4) Only fools, those who minds are corrupted / perverted and lack understanding, refute and deny the TRUTH of God: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity..." (Psalm 53:1). "...walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness (hardness) of their heart (Ephesians 4:17-18). *Rejecting Truth does not invalidate Truth!

Verse 17

In Paul's doxology (short hymn of praise), Paul directs our attention to the Attributes of God (Characteristics which distinguishes God from ALL): King (Sovereign), Eternal (Cannot cease from existing), Immortal, Invisible (God is Omnipresent - everywhere at once), Omniscient (All-Knowing), for God alone is worthy of ALL Honor and Glory for ever and ever...AMEN

Verse 18

Paul passionately reiterates to Timothy to stand, resist the attempts of Satan through false teachers and heretics to prohibit the health, soundness, progress, and flourishing of the Church. Paul reminds Timothy of the prophecies announced early in Timothy's ministry regarding his future role in the Church as a servant of Jesus Christ and if the world's wickedness would cause him to feel discouraged in being persistent concerning the work of the Lord, then remember the Word the Lord spoke in the Prophecy to persevere, be encouraged, and inspired to continue to do the "good work" of the Lord and not give up... "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9). Using powerful imagery, Paul exhorts "his son" to "war a good warfare" or in others words "fight the good fight and cleave to your faith" (2 Tim. 4:7) - - Christian ministry is spiritual warfare against the lies, deceit, devices, onslaught of Satan and the forces of evil... "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

Verse 19

Paul exhorts, charges, urges, adjures (commands) Timothy to: **CLEAVE TO YOUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST!!! DON'T ALLOW THE WILES (strategy, devices, influence, deceit - Ephesians 6:12) OF SATAN TO SUFFOCATE, OVERTAKE YOUR CONSCIENCE (mind, heart)!!!** Paul knew that anyone who lost faith in Jesus Christ and allowed their mind to be corrupted against Christ would experience "spiritual shipwreck" regarding their relationship with Christ. This is Satan's intention - - to use ANY means possible to cause us to experience "spiritual shipwreck" by completely wrecking our relationship with Christ. Satan thirsts to sift (separate) us from the Lord Jesus in the temporary and in the eternal... "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren" (St. Luke 22:31)

Verse 20

Hymenaeus along with Alexander experienced the "spiritual shipwreck" that Paul mentioned in v.19. These men allowed their faith and good conscience (mind, heart) to become corrupted, polluted, and sifted by Satan to the point where they became evil, destructive, blasphemous heretics (apostates, false teachers) who taught (promoted) false doctrines that opposed (disputed, challenged, questioned) the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the vanity (arrogance, narcissism, big-headedness, uselessness, worthlessness, fruitlessness) of their own corrupted minds, they sought to create a "cancer" or "contaminant" within the church by poisoning the faith and good conscience of the Believers with deception, lies, falsehoods - - thus creating division, railings (strong, persistent complaints), contention, strife and disorder within the assembly...

“For God is not the Author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints” (1 Corinthians 14:33); “For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work” (James 3:16). Paul also warned Timothy AGAIN in 2 Timothy 2:16-17 about the cankerous (cancerous) Hymenaeus along with another venomous, deadly heretic named Philetus... “But shun (avoid) profane (not sacred, blasphemous, obscene) and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word (what they are teaching) will eat as doth a canker (cancer): of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus.” They hated the Truth and embraced demonic doctrines without conscience... “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing (impostor, deceiving, lying) spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron” (1 Tim. 4:1-2). Paul also warned Timothy AGAIN in 2 Timothy 4:14 about that harmful, dangerous, and wicked Alexander... “Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works.”

Paul viewed the actions of these heretics as so treacherous and irreverent that he “delivered them unto Satan” - - As an Apostle, Paul had the “apostolic authority” to “deliver” one to Satan or to “turn over to Satan” a willful sinning, blasphemous member for the infliction of physical suffering (punishment) for the purpose of correction. The intent or design was Satan would be used as the “instrument of discipline”, to bring chastisement upon the blasphemer so that he would cease his blasphemy (Of God, the Gospel, the Church). In addition, Excommunication (exclusion) from the Church was pronounced also - - it was necessary for one to stop the egregious sinning, abandon their evil ways, and repent to God in order to be restored to fellowship. In extreme cases however, death could result as in the case of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5: 1-11).

One of the blasphemous, false philosophies they “thrust” upon the body of Believers was that the resurrection for the Believers had already occurred!!! How warped and how twisted were their teachings! They were extremely dangerous - - think about the potential destruction for anyone who was influenced by this satanic lie! For anyone who believed this about the resurrection of Believers, then what hope did those who were still on earth have of being resurrected also “if” it had already taken place??!

Believing this demonic fallacy would annihilate their faith, hope, and belief in Christ!!! Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica:

“But I would not have you to be ignorant brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as other which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Know that:

**“Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust Him”
(Proverbs 30:5)**

“The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times” (Psalm 12:6)

“The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead” (Proverbs 21:16)

Other False Doctrines and Heresies:

Ebionism – A Jewish sect that denied the Divine Nature (Deity) of Christ based upon their misconceptions of the Messiah

Sabellianism – Denied the “tri-personality” of God and Christ’s Existence as the Son Of God pre-Incarnation (Jesus began to exist when He was Incarnated)

Arianism – Denied that The Father and The Son are “One”

Apollinarianism – Christ had a body and soul, but not a “human spirit” with intelligence and rationality