
Sermon Notes

January 10, 2021

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Courage... Conviction... Commitment
1 Timothy 1:1-2

What If...

- ❖ Jesus' church faced pressure from within and without to adapt its message so that it was more in sync with the dominant views of the society around her?
- ❖ Jesus' church became increasingly like the world around it?
- ❖ Jesus' church lost sight of the Lord's directives about discipleship, growing in Christ, the meaning of godliness, faithfulness to the gospel, the importance of a Christian witness, suffering and life in the Spirit?
 - these are all issues Paul addresses as he writes Timothy about problems going on at the 1st century church in Ephesus
 - these are perennial needs that must be addressed in every generation
- ❖ The fact that Paul calls upon Timothy to "charge", "teach", "urge," "remind", "reprove", "rebuke" and "exhort" the people of Ephesus suggests that the problems are coming more from within the church than from without and, in all likelihood, from some of its own leaders

Paul and Timothy

- ❖ Timothy is, in every way, Paul's spiritual son
 - Paul trusts Timothy with difficult situations
 - Paul says, *I have no one else like him* (Phil 2:20)
- ❖ Even though Timothy is not a super-hero of the faith, he is entrusted with high levels of responsibility
 - timid in nature (2 Tim 1:6-7)
 - easily discouraged or frightened (1 Cor 16:10-11; 2 Tim 1:8)
 - prone to sickness (1 Tim 5:23).
- ❖ Paul never misses a chance to say a good word about Timothy
 - *my son whom I love* (1 Cor 4:17)
 - *my true son in the faith* (1 Tim 1:2)
 - *my dear son* (2 Tim 1:2)
- ❖ Despite our own challenges, difficulties, weaknesses, and thorns in the flesh, if we belong to Christ, we are loved by our Father, valued, gifted, commissioned, and commanded to work for the advancement of Christ's kingdom
- ❖ To understand and make sense of what is going on in our day, we must
 - understand the blueprint for ministry and the church that God reveals in His Word
 - stand with courage, maintain conviction and be resolutely committed to our mission

Greetings!

- ❖ **Paul, an apostle... to Timothy**
- ❖ Apostle = “sent one”
 - eyewitness of the resurrected Christ and commissioned by Christ to carry the gospel to sinners
 - learned the gospel from Jesus not other men
 - witness of Christ’s words and deeds
- ❖ Paul is an apostle by the command of
 - **God our Savior** (looks back in time to the salvation God accomplishes through Christ)
 - **Christ Jesus our hope** (looks forward to the day when Christ will return in power and glory)
- ❖ The blessings of salvation
 - **grace** refers to God’s undeserved favor, love and forgiveness that frees sinners from the consequences of sin
 - **mercy** refers to the freedom we have from the misery that accompanies sin
 - **peace** is the result of grace and mercy and refers not only to harmony with God but also to tranquility of soul
- ❖ Grace, mercy and peace are needed not just to get the Christian life launched at conversion but throughout the Christian life
- ❖ A **true child in the faith** is one who possesses genuine saving faith, adheres to sound doctrine, is committed to a

life of faithful obedience and humble service, and who has the courage of his/her convictions

- ❖ the close, personal father/son relationship between Paul and Timothy plays out in many ways
 - they travel together to Thessalonica, Corinth and Jerusalem
 - Timothy stays with Paul during his Roman imprisonment
 - Paul collaborates with Timothy on 6 books in the NT
- ❖ Paul’s passion for the church and for investing his life in the lives of others
 - what is our level of passion for doing the same?
 - are we marked by a similar courage, conviction, and commitment to the things of God?

Personal Application

1. What similarities do you see between the concerns and issues faced by the 1st century church at Ephesus and those face by churches in the Western world of 2021?
2. Do you think problems within churches are more likely to come from inside or outside the fellowship? What leads you to this conclusion?
3. Are there any people that you can thank God for who have poured their lives into you in a way that is similar to what Paul does for Timothy? Are there any people into whom you are currently pouring your life to nurture and encourage them in the faith? If not, what would it take for you make this kind of investment?