
Sermon Notes

February 7, 2021

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

The Only God 1 Timothy 1:17

Testimony Leads to Worship

- ❖ Paul's testimony is the story of all who have ever come or ever will come to saving faith in Jesus
 - a testimony of what **God** does in salvation
 - after testifying to what God has done in Paul's personal life, Paul sings out a one sentence hymn of unrestrained praise that worships God for who He is
- ❖ Because it is easy for a personal testimony to become self-centered and man-focused, Paul ends his spiritual autobiography by glorifying God
 - having explained the one true gospel, Paul worships the one true God
 - Paul's enthusiasm breaks out into this exclamation
- ❖ Paul's doxology answers 3 questions: **Who** is this God we praise? **Why** should we praise Him? and **How long** should we praise Him?

WHO...

- ❖ **The King of the ages**
 - we are familiar with Jesus being identified as King

- but here, Paul points us to OT ascriptions of praise to God as king (Psalm 10:16, 93:1, Jer 10:10)
- Father and Son rule together without any rivalry between them
- an everlasting kingship
- God is KING not COPILOT

❖ Immortal

- refers to God's being and essence
- "incorruptible" (imperishable, cannot decay)
 - corruption is a fact of daily human existence
 - unlike everything else He has made, God is NOT falling apart
- those who trust Jesus for salvation will inherit immortal, imperishable, incorruptible bodies

❖ Invisible

- *God dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see.* (1 Tim. 6:16)
- the most that anyone has ever seen of God is the glorious light within which God remains hidden
- God is to be praised for His invisibility
- one thing we CAN see is God's incarnate Son... God has made Himself visible in Jesus Christ
- to see Jesus in all His majesty is to see the glory of God

- Psalm 27:4, Job 19:25-27

WHY...

- ❖ We praise God because He is *the only God*
- ❖ Those who follow *the only God* address Him as Father Son and Holy Spirit
 - the Father plans for and administers redemption
 - the Son accomplishes redemption
 - the Holy Spirit applies redemption

HOW LONG...

- ❖ Forever and ever!
- ❖ Proclaim His glory now and forever
 - singing songs and offering words of praise
 - the way we live our lives
- ❖ AMEN!
 - not an afterthought or a way to put a period or exclamation point at the end of a sentence
 - "so be it" or "may this be the case"

Personal Application

1. As you think of what your life was like before you met Christ, what specific character qualities of God do you praise Him for as a result of His choice of you and His saving you?
2. In the midst of a world that is marked by decay, what comfort and hope do you find in knowing that God is immortal (*i.e.* incorruptible, not subject to decay)?
3. How do the unique roles that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit play in the salvation process shape the way you worship and praise each member of the Trinity?
4. Are you more prone to thinking of God as King or Copilot? Why is this the case? After hearing this message, is there anything that needs to change in the way you approach and respond to the One whom Paul describes as the King of the ages?