

**Christ Church Anglican, Mt. Pleasant, SC**  
**The Rectors' Forum - October 4, 2020**  
*The Pastoral Epistles*

Session 2 - 1 Timothy 1 - 2.

Opening Prayer - "For the Local Congregation" 2019 ACNA BCP p. 649

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear our prayers, and grant that in this congregation the pure Word of God may be preached and the Sacraments duly administered. Strengthen and confirm the faithful; protect and guide the children; visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wicked; arouse the careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent; remove all hindrances to the advancement of your truth; and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Chapter 1**

**Vs. 1 An Apostolic Faith and Life** - first, something about Paul that applies to all of us:

By definition an apostle is one who is sent out; it means to be an envoy or an ambassador.

Asked what an ambassador is, David Wilkins, one-time U.S. ambassador to Canada said that first s/he "is one who brings a message from their home country to their assigned country."

Barclay: "...one who is sent to represent both country and monarch. Paul always regarded himself as the envoy and ambassador of Christ. And, in truth, that is the office of every Christian. It is the first duty of all ambassadors to form a liaison between the country to which they are sent and the country from which they have come. They form the connecting link."

It has been said that "you are the only Gospel most people will hear this week."

**Vs. 2a A True Child in the Faith** - second, something about Timothy, cf. Philippians 2:19-22, that applies to all of us:

Barclay: "Timothy was the man whom Paul could trust and could send anywhere, knowing that he would go. Happy indeed is the leader who possesses a follower like that. Timothy is our example of how we should serve in the faith. Christ and his Church need servants like that."

**Vs. 2b Grace, Mercy & Peace** - not just churchy words or a line to skim past but that in which our life and joy and hope consist; cf. Ephesians 6:10-18, Galatians 5:22, Philippians 2:1-11, among others.

- **Grace.** From classical Greek and from the NT, 3 ideas: 1 - describes someone who is lovely, attractive, charming; 2 - generosity: the opposite of debt or works; 3 - universality. So grace is a thing lovely, free, and universal.
- **Mercy.** Loving kindness, help in the time to need: "it is the coming down of the Most High to help the helpless." Paul may well be reminding Timothy, who was feeling up against it, that God was the help of the helpless.
- **Peace.** The normative Jewish greeting; but meaning not just the absence of trouble but well-being - that which makes for our highest good. Barclay: "It is the state we are in when we are within the love of God."

### **Vs. 4-5 Standing for Orthodoxy, the True Gospel -**

Cf. Jude 3-4 & Galatians 1:6-9

### **Vs. 5-7 True Gospel vs. False Gospel, Theology/Ethics/Mindset**

RSV editor: "The goal of preaching is love: not romantic sentiment, but sharing God's generosity with one's neighbor. The neglect of love leads to empty talk.

Myths, Genealogies, and Speculations:

- Problems from the Jewish perspective - keep the main thing the main thing!
- Problems from the Greek/Gentile perspective - Gnosticism - speculative, intellectual, exclusive, unbiblical; Ethically: Asceticism & Licentiousness

The Heretical Mind:

- Desire for novelty
- Intellect at the expense of the heart
- Argument instead of action
- Arrogance instead of humility
- Dogmatism without knowledge

The Gospel Mind:

- Based on faith
- Motivated by love
- Coming from a pure heart
- Coming from a good conscience
- Sincerity

**Vs. 12-17 History is not Destiny, thank God!** - God's mercy provides space for and prompts repentance from us.

Vs. 12-16 - Remembering our Sin and Redemption:

- To keep from spiritual pride
- To keep gratitude strong

- To urge to greater effort
- To be an encouragement to others (vs. 16)

**Vs. 18 - Be a Mentor** - pass it on

**Vs. 18 - Get into “good trouble”** (John Lewis), cf. Hosea 6:8 “...do justice...”

## Chapter 2

### **Vs. 1-7 The Universality of the Gospel**

**Vs. 1-7 The Priority of Prayer** - comes this essential pastoral advice “first of all...”

### **Vs. 1-7 Prayer for those in Authority**

- They derive power from God: that they would rule in a way pleasing to God
- They are to restrain evil, that Christian believers and all God-fearers may lead peaceful, faithful lives, and create an atmosphere in which godliness, being protected and respected, can be witnessed by others in the hope that they will desire to imitate it.

**Vs. 2 - A Life Lived in Godliness and Reverence - specifically, for rulers and for all people:**

- *Eusebeia*, godliness. Barclay: “It describes that attitude of mind which respects others and honors God.”
- *Semnotes*, reverence. Barclay: “...such a person moves through the world...never forgetting the holiness of God or the dignity of others.”