

STUDY 2 - Good News for Sinners (1 Tim 1:12-20)

If someone asked you to sum up the gospel – the good news about Jesus – in a sentence, what would you say?

Quickly re-read 1 Timothy 1:1-11

1. What was Paul's charge to Timothy (vv. 3-4)? Why was it so important that Timothy confront false teachings and false teachers head on?

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17

2. God has entrusted Paul with the “gospel of the glory of the blessed God” (v. 11). What is at the heart of this gospel? What is it about?
3. Why was Paul such an appropriate person for God to entrust with preaching this gospel?
4. Flick back to Mark 2:13-17. How does Paul's “trustworthy saying” (vv. 14-15) match up with Jesus' own teaching here?
5. What does Paul want Timothy to hold to (in contrast to the false teachers)? How does this relate to the content of the gospel (in question 2)?

6. What does Paul have in common with Hymenaeus and Alexander? How has he been treated differently? Why?
7. What do you think it might mean for these men to have been “handed over to Satan”? Look up 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 – are there any similarities or differences in Paul's disciplinary action?

Implications

- “As a general principle, whatever you spend most of your time thinking and talking about is your gospel.” If this rough and ready test were applied to your Christian life, what would people conclude is your gospel?
- Have you ever been tempted to think that you are too sinful to be forgiven? What comfort does this passage bring, especially as we seek to live as the “display home” of God's kingdom?
- Where have you ever been tempted to tiptoe around the truth of the gospel? How can we encourage one another to “fight the good fight”, even in the face of false teachers?

Give thanks and pray

Thank God for his mercy, always available through Christ's death to those who repent and believe

Pray for those who teach God's word in your church and Bible study groups—that they would stand firm and faithfully teach “sound doctrine, in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God”.