

Recap of 1/21/18 (1 Timothy 1:1,2)

1. Paul, the writer of 1 Timothy, identifies himself as an Apostle. The word “apostle,” which means “a sent one, a messenger” (sent with a message, sent with authority), is used in the New Testament of the Twelve disciples and Paul and is used generically of anyone sent. Paul’s apostleship was established by Jesus appearing to him on the road to Damascus. Paul’s apostleship was not from men, but from God (“by the command of God our Savior” vs. 1; Galatians 1;1,17; 2 Corinthians 15:8,9).

2. Paul never forgot the call of God upon his life. (Acts 22:14,15). God had set him apart to salvation for a purpose and he was ever mindful of fulfilling that purpose in gratitude to God for saving him.

3. Paul refers to Jesus as “Christ Jesus our hope.” “In the early church this was to become one of the most precious titles of Christ.” (Barclay) In a chaotic world, marked by personal excesses, moral failure and terror, Christ provided hope for victory over sin, over circumstances and over death. He still does.

4. The salutation concludes with a request for God to be gracious and merciful to them, and to give them peace.

-grace is undeserved favor from God, what He is free to do on the basis of the cross. Grace is contrasted in the Scripture with works and debt (grace cannot be a reward for work, nor can God be indebted to anyone).

-mercy is God meeting our need, His compassion.

-peace is wholeness, stability in the midst of external conflict or internal distractions

5. Bonus quote from Eugene Peterson: “Every day I put hope on the line. I don’t know one thing about the future. I don’t know what the next hour will hold. There may be sickness, personal or world catastrophe. Before this day is over I may have to deal with death, pain, loss, rejection. I don’t know what the future holds for me, for those whom I love, for my nation, for this world. Still, despite my ignorance and surrounded by tinny optimists and cowardly pessimists, I say that God will accomplish His will, and cheerfully persist in living in the hope that nothing will separate me from Christ’s love.”