

## **Recap of 2/11/18 (1 Timothy 1:18-20)**

1. Paul's was radically changed by the gospel. He went from persecutor of the church to a worshipper of Jesus.

-His story can be found in Acts 7:58-28:31, as well as in his letters.

-He had a burning passion for Jesus, Philippians 3:12-14.

-He wasn't a man-pleaser but was committed to God and His truth (e.g. he called out even Peter (in Galatians 1).

-He struggled with a "thorn in the flesh" which most believe was some kind of physical issue. When God did not remove it after three entreaties from Paul, he learned that God could use his weakness and didn't need his strength. A lesson we need to learn even today.

2. The recollection of Timothy's call to the ministry would stiffen his resolve to carry on and not quit. Often we need to be reminded of God's call in our lives whether to ministry or to some other calling so that we will not grow weary or give up.

3. On the connection between faith and a good conscience:

"Being doctrinally correct has no value to us or to others unless we are also doctrinally corrected: unless the lives we lead are pure as the truth we embrace." (Richards)

-"It is not enough to proclaim the faith with our lips; we must practice the faith in our daily lives." (Wiersbe)

-"Faith and a good conscience are three times conjoined in this Epistle, showing the inseparable connection between faith and morals." (Guthrie)

-"More often than we know, religious error has its roots in moral rather than in intellectual causes." (Scott)

4. The cost of violating our consciences with sin and abandoning the faith is vividly illustrated by Paul's use of a shipwreck to picture the cost of turning away from God. A picture which conjures up totally loss of that which is valuable, up to and possibly including loss of life.