

1 Timothy #3

May 11, 2025

Series: Body Essentials: Imperatives for Church and Leaders

Today's Message: The Gospel and Doxology; 1 Timothy 1:12-17

The word Gospel should be understood as "*glad tidings*" from God for salvation through Christ Jesus the Lord.

The word Doxology should be understood as "*glory words*," which can be either written or spoken.

Which comes first? The Gospel leads and doxology follows. It is profound to think that the Gospel effectively directs a person to the knowledge of the glory of God, and doxology is the expression of that knowledge.

Today we read of Paul's personal experience with the gospel of grace in verses 12-14; the purpose of the gospel of grace (1:15-16); and Paul's personal doxology in response to the gospel of grace (1:17).

I) (1:12-14) Paul's personal experience with the gospel of grace.

- A) (1:12) Personal gratitude to "Christ Jesus our Lord." (The "*our*" includes Timothy and all the saints!)
 - 1) Ever aware of and thankful for the saving and electing grace of God. Not mentioned but *implied*.
 - (a) His salvation and apostleship according to God's electing grace. (Acts 22:14; 26:16; Rom. 1:5).
 - (b) "*Our*" salvation and service according to God's electing grace (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 2:11)
 - 2) Ever aware of God's grace to **strengthen** him to work out salvation in his (our) life. (2 Cor. 9:8)
 - 3) Ever aware of God's grace to make him **faithful** (trustworthy) to his calling. (1 Cor. 7:25b)
 - 4) Ever aware of God's grace in **appointing** him for service. Remember that Paul's idea of service was as a slave of Christ Jesus, and not as one promoted to a lofty position. A humble view of self.
 - (a) A call to suffer **for the sake of Christ's visibility** (Col. 1:24; Gal. 6:17; Phil. 3:10)
 - (b) A call to serve in complete trust no matter the circumstances. (2 Cor. 12:9; Phil. 4:12-13)
- B) (1:13) Personal awareness that the gospel also displayed the unlimited mercy of God toward him!
 - 1) MacArthur: "Paul's wretchedness was met with God's compassion!"
 - 2) Definitions: **Grace** removes guilt. **Mercy** removes the misery caused by sin.
- C) (1:14) Personal awareness of the abundance of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (in every way)!
 - 1) As great as was Paul's sin the *superabundant* grace of God surpassed it! (Rm.5:20b; 2 Cor. 9:8)
 - 2) Also, the *love* and *faith* of Christ Jesus was superabundantly poured out on Paul! **Gifted** to him!

II) (1:15-16) Paul's personal understanding of the purpose of the gospel of grace.

- A) (1:15) Paul frames his personal understanding of the purpose of the gospel of grace with **doctrine**!
 - 1) The preparation: "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance..."
 - 2) The doctrine: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..." (The Gospel in brief!)
 - (a) *The anointed eternal king (Christ) became a man (Jesus) stepping into time to live on earth among a lost, blind, rebellious and condemned humanity (world) to represent, redeem and reconcile sinners to God through His own righteousness life and sacrificial death.*
 - 3) The application: "...of whom I am the worst/ foremost." How could he say this? Look at 1:13.
- B) (1:16) The Purpose of God's grace to Paul.
 - 1) To display the unlimited patience/ perfect patience for such a sinner as Paul. No other reason!
 - 2) That this display of unlimited mercy serves as an example to all who believe on Him and have eternal life. (No sin can *outpace* the grace and mercy of God.) **Learn: The gospel is for sinners!**

III) (1:17) Paul's personal doxology in response to the gospel of grace.

- A) From thanksgiving (1:12) to doxology (1:17). These two run hand in hand.
 - 1) If you meditate with gratitude to God doxology (Glory Words/ worship) will not be far behind.
 - 2) If you meditate on God's character, nature and attributes and works, then thanksgiving will not be far behind.
- B) Paul's theology becomes his doxology! "King," "eternal," "immortal," "invisible," "only wise." Doxology!

Exposition of verses listed in the main outline along with some supplemental notes:

I.A.1.a: **Acts 22:14**: The God of our Fathers has chosen you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from His mouth.” **Acts 26:16**: “...I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness...” **Rom. 1:5**: “...we received grace and apostleship to call people from among the Gentiles to the obedience of faith...”

I.A.1.b: **Eph. 2:8-9**: “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” **Titus 2:11**: “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.” ***Note**: It is God who initiates grace and God alone who bestows the measure of grace as He pleases.

I.A.2: **2 Cor. 9:8**: “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” ***Note**: One facet of God’s abounding or unlimited grace allows us to “work out our salvation.” That is His continual outpouring of divine grace is constantly **providing us the spiritual means to live out, or display, the life of Christ generated in us at new birth by the Holy Spirit.**

I.A.3: **1 Cor. 7:25b**: “Now to the virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord’s mercy is trustworthy.” ***Note**: My emphasis in using this verse is found in the second half. Paul’s trustworthiness is owed completely to God’s mercy. And as 1 Timothy 1:15 reminds us, His mercy is unlimited. And remembering that mercy has to do with the divine removal of the misery caused by sin. Thanks be to God for without the mercy of God poured out in abundance on him, Paul’s service would have been rendered ineffective. Guilt brings great misery and suffering in the conscience. But God’s mercy removes the misery caused by sin.

I.A.4.a: **Col. 1:24**: “Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions, for the sake of His body, which is the church.” **Gal. 6:17**: “I bear in my body the marks of Jesus.” **Phil. 3:10-11**: “I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, become like Him in His death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.” ***Note**: Paul was a slave to Christ. What could be better? Could anything surpass being identified as being one *belonging to Christ through purchase*? Now, the desire of this faithful *slave* is for the **imprint** of the Master to be on him no matter the cost to his own person.

I.A.4.b: **2 Cor. 12:9**: “But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” **Phil. 4:12-13**: “I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all things through [Christ] who gives me strength.”

I.C.1: **Rom. 5:20b**: “But where sin increased, grace increased all the more.” **2 Cor. 9:8**: (see quoted above).

More verses on God: abounding, abundance, abundantly

2 Cor. 9:8: *abound* is used twice! **Philippians 1:9**: “...that your love may abound more and more...” The word *abounding* is often connected to God’s complete and full *love and faithfulness* to His promise in the OT. **Rom. 5:17** speaks about God’s abundant grace and righteousness overflowing to His people through Jesus Christ. An inexhaustible provision in Christ! Do you need more grace? It is yours in abundance!

II. Paul’s personal understanding of the purpose of God’s grace.

1 Timothy 1:15-16 says it clearly. The purpose of God’s grace is to save sinners and demonstrate His unlimited patience as an example to other sinners. Look also at Mark 2:17 and John 3:17!

III. Paul’s personal doxology in response to the gospel of grace.

There are other verses and verse groups expressing doxology. Here are a few. I’ve provided categories:

Doxology in response to divine Truth: Rom. 11:33-36; Rom. 16:25-27; Eph. 3:20-21; Gal. 1:5

Doxology in response to God’s unlimited saving patience: 1 Tim. 1:17; 2 Tim. 4:18

Doxology in response to God’s gift of eternal security: Jude :24-25