When the Gospel Takes a Back Seat February 11, 2024

*1 Timothy 1:12-20 Series: How the Church Falls off the Rails*

We're people who got into this line of work … because it made us forget how much we feel like we're not good enough. – Taylor Swift

Intro: The real focus of Super Bowl LVIII

1. With the gospel in the back seat, you lose the confidence to drive
2. Timothy didn’t think he was up for the challenge

1 Timothy 4:12 *Let no one despise you for your youth …*

2 Timothy 1:7 *God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*

1 Timothy 5:23 *No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.*

1. Jesus is the one who fills us with what we need

v. 12 *I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus*

v. 14 *the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus*

1. This isn’t just for good, religious people

v. 12 *he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service*

v. 13 *I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent*

Galatians 1:13 *For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it.*

v. 13 *I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief*

* What’s wrong with trying to cure your insecurity with success?
* How does the gospel address our insecurities?
* How would Paul’s testimony have reassured Timothy?

1. God knew you would try to disqualify yourself
2. Even in a world of fake news, there are some things worth trusting

v. 15 *The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance*

v. 15 *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners*

Mark 2:17 *I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.*

1. It’s not a coincidence that Paul was chosen to lead

v. 15 *Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.*

1 Corinthians 15:9 *For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.*

v. 16 *But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.*

Matthew 26:72 *And again [Peter] denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.”*

1. When you understand the gospel, you can’t help but praise God

v. 17 *To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

* Why did God call Paul and give him such a prominent role in the spread and establishment of the early church?
* How does Paul’s salvation display Jesus’ perfect patience? How would that truth have encouraged Timothy?
* Which one of the descriptors for God in v. 17 is most resisted today? Which one is most precious to you?

1. Arm yourself with the gospel, and get in the battle
2. Armour isn’t made for museums

v. 18 *This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare …*

1. There’s a battle to obey your faith and your conscience

v. 19 *holding faith and a good conscience*

1. The danger of shipwreck is real

v. 19 *rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith*

v. 20 *among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme*

* In v. 18, Paul returns to a charge that he gave Timothy earlier in the letter, what is it?
* How is our battle similar to Timothy’s? How is it different?
* What does it mean to hold “faith and a good conscience”?
* What does it mean to “shipwreck” your faith?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Notes