

**Introduction** – We have started a series called “Doing Church PT 2” – *Today's emphasis is taken from 1Tim 1:12-20*. READ

The structure of the Epistle of 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy appears to be that young Timothy (approx. 15 yrs in faith and 30yrs in age) was left to recover loss that was happening in the Ephesian Church. Timothy was instructed by Paul to setup leaders in the church, conduct ministries in the church, to root out false teaching in the church. He was operating under the mentorship of Paul but being put in a position of leadership that was beyond his comfort zone. After Paul WITNESSING the disruption in Ephesus Paul LEFT Timothy to confront these errors and set in order a healthy church again so it doesn't **“suffer shipwreck”**

Illustrative connection: Its amazing how we attach meaning to various events that happen to us. And depending on our “bent” we will write a narrative that we rehearse and replay many, many times. In Acts 27 we read about such an event that Luke recorded about a shipwreck that occurred when He and Paul and 274 other PRISONERS were travelling to Rome. These moments were devastating. They lost cargo, equipment, disoriented, without food.. This was a story that marks the soul, makes people afraid of boats, water etc.

How do you “Hold Fast” when your boat (faith) seems like its gonna sink?  
How do we “remain on” things seem hopeless?

**You tuck away the promises of God in your heart? So when things get rough you maintain faith and a good conscience so you don't suffer shipwreck.** –

**Acts 27:24** “saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has graciously granted you all those who are sailing with you.’”

**1 Tim 1:19** keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to <sup>al</sup>their faith.

## I. Vs 12. Paul explaining the inspirative Christian life in a nutshell –

<sup>Vs 12</sup> | **thank Christ** Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service.

Note: Paul loved Jesus, and loved the church and was disturbed by what was happening in Ephesus. This seems a bit out of context from the above vs. But Paul is sharing his testimony, strengthening Timothy while ejecting those false teachers. This is part of his strategy to lay foundation of “Doing Church” – **incarnation and redemption. Paul preaches the gospel from vs 11**

A. Thankfulness – *Paul bursts into thanks sharing his own story*-Jesus is the only way we will find meaning purpose and calling -starts with what we tell ourselves – what story?

B. Strengthened - He fills us with His Holy Spirit and empowers us – gives us ability!- believe Phil. 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” – **RESULT OF CHRIST inspirative**

C. Faith-filled narrative – Identify – repurpose pain – flip the script – rehearse & replay

D. Putting me into service – Jesus will always plant good seed! Not as apostle but as a servant minister.

**Questions for connections:**

- What narratives do you replay in your mind?
- Do you find your thoughts cycling through negative narratives?
- What are you thankful for?

## II. Vs. 13-16. Paul knew about recovery from "Shipwrecked faith".

A. Paul's spoke evil toward God – persecuted people – violent toward the church

B. How could Paul have been a blasphemer as a devout Jew keeping the law?

Phil. 3:5-6 circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

### **PAUL WAS SHOWN MERCY "EVEN THOUGH"**

1. He was not a blasphemer until He accepted Jesus Christ as God – he would never speak evil against God had he known – Paul clearly saw Jesus in a new light -as God and part of the trinity.

C. Vs 13 It was the mercy of God that first reached Paul – "when he acted ignorantly in unbelief"

**"bent toward evil and was spiritually unaware of the consequence, that's when Jesus rescued him" vs**

### Questions for connections:

- Do you have any "even thoughts" in your life? (God has brought me here even though)
- Are there areas in your life, things you keep doing LIKE YOU HAVE A BENT TOWARD?
- Do you have a hard time believing Jesus can forgive you for things you have done or think?
- Do you feel like you have shipwrecked your faith somehow?

### **IF SO, GODS MERCY IN CHRIST IS AVAILABLE FOR YOU TODAY!**

D. Vs 14 Mercy and grace is what was extended to Paul then faith and Love is the response of a rescued heart. Its like this traffic of exchange. – Faith and love are divine qualities that follow grace

E. Vs 15-16 Paul brings his testimony to a head and explains to Timothy the central point of the message and the ministry of the church!

Vs 15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost. <sup>16</sup> Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost *sinner* Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those <sup>1a</sup>who would believe in Him for eternal life.

All of this is in contrast to those false teachers who turned away from faith and love

Paul is basically seeing himself as a redeemed sinner- "If God can do it for me then He can do it for all who come to Him.

F. Vs 17 we see Paul burst into this spontaneous expression of His faith – He does this a couple of times in this epistle. "Doxology" -Words of glory – inspired poetry/literature

Now to the King <sup>1a</sup>eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory <sup>1b</sup>forever and ever. Amen.

This seems so far from the original purpose "Remain on to deal with false teachers" – this was part of Pauls purpose

G. Vs 18-19 Paul, I believe in this somewhat prophetic, euphoric state begins to recall other prophetic words spoken over Timothy and encourages him to fight for them. It is faith and good conscience that will equip us to avoid and or recover from a shipwreck.

H. Vs 20 – Shipwreck is one thing but an intentional effort to sabotage the boat in mutiny is another thing altogether. These men were false pastors teaching and modelling strange doctrine in the church. So Paul removed them from the fellowship out from the care of the church on their own!

Invite Maggie up to sing 1 Tim 1:17 "Doxology"

### III. Conclusion

- A. Its clear from these verses in Ch. 1 Timothy has been left in Ephesus to deal with and stop the false teachers. These verses give us a beautiful role model and encouragement from Paul to continue to fight: for your faith, for purity, for healthy relationship and for the Church
- B. Believe that God wants to be present in His house – the church –
- C. Don't be discouraged with failure – Jesus Chris has the power to save and set us free

Explain what we are about to sing – This is a

### IV. Questions for action

- A. Do you need to receive Christ today
- B. Do you feel shipwrecked in any way
- C. Do you need freedom to write new narratives in your thoughts