

WEEK 17

1st Timothy discussion and 1st Peter background

1st Timothy discussion

Theme

Ryrie: fighting the good fight, how to behave in the house of God

Bible discussion questions

What did you think was the theme of 1 Timothy ?

What picture do you have of the church/believers after reading 1 Timothy?

How is that the same/ different from our experience today?

Which passages encouraged you? Which passages challenged you?

In ch. 1, Paul talks about some who were devoting themselves to things which were not beneficial to the church. What do we devote ourselves to that is a waste of time?

What promotes controversy?

Why does he say that the law is for lawbreakers?

Referring to 1:15-16, how can God use even the worst sinners?

Notice how he stresses in 1:17 how God is the only god, and his characteristics, refuting the Gnostic teachings

Should we only pray for good rulers? 2:1-4 Nero was emperor at that time!

(Nero had family members poisoned, was known for his perversion, had his mother murdered, then his ex-wife, then his mistress, blamed the great Roman fire on Christians and had them killed by wild beasts, crucified, or burned as human torches)

Why should we pray for them?

What is God's desire for the world? that all be saved

In 2:8, what attitudes do we see that can hinder prayer?

How can we adorn ourselves with good deeds? 2:9

According to 2:15, what should our lifestyle be like? faith, love, purity, propriety

What are elders to be like? 3:1-7

What are deacons to be like? 3:8-13 What should their wives be like?

In 3:13, what is one of the benefits of serving others?

In 4:1-3, how do false teachings come into the church?

What are false teachers' characteristics?

Have you ever had a large burn or scar? what was it like when it was healed?

numb, inflexible, abnormal compared to healthy skin

What is a seared conscience like?

How can we train ourselves to be godly? 4:7

Why should we? 4:8

In 4:12, how should we respond to people who look down on us as we serve the church?

be an example of godly speech, life, love, faith, and purity

Look at 4:13-16. What should we do with our spiritual gifts?

How does that benefit others?

What does Paul warn that we should watch closely in 4:16? Life and doctrine

What is God's attitude about us caring for our own families? See 5:4 and 5:8

What does 5:6 mean?

In 5:9-10, what are some characteristics of a godly Christian woman?

How are elders held to a higher standard in 5:19-20?

Why should we care about false teaching? Look what it leads to, in 6:3-5

How is godliness with contentment a great gain (6:6) ?

In 6:6-12, what should we avoid and what should we pursue?

What are you like when you pursue someone? focused, determined, committed

Is the love of money the root of ALL evil? all KINDS

What kinds of evil come from the love of money?

What is the good fight of the faith?

If God has blessed us with riches, what should our attitude toward money be? 6:17-19

1st Peter background

Timeline:

Paul visits Crete, leaves Titus there to supervise church, then to Nicopolis

where Titus rejoins him (after being relieved by Tychicus or Artemas)

Peter in Rome ("Babylon" to avoid trouble with Roman authorities)

63 1 Peter

Who wrote it?

Peter wrote it, with Silas (Silvanus) as his secretary

Peter was the leader of the twelve apostles

Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, and Salome (one of the women who was at the crucifixion and

then went to the empty tomb on Easter morning) all came from the same small fishing

village in Galilee: Bethsaida, a village of probably only a few hundred people,

and 8-10 extended families.

Bethsaida, Chorazin, and Capernaum were a triangle of towns where the idea of

being a disciple was the strongest—a very devout area

Their world revolved around the synagogue, which was a meeting place as well as

a sacred place. Visiting rabbis would teach here, debate may occur.

The synagogue was where they held the school for the children, that we talked about.

Remember how you became a disciple of a rabbi? After "high school", if you were found to

have enough passion for the text of God's word, you could find a rabbi, and ask if you

could follow him and be his disciple. He would observe you for a while, and most were turned away. If you showed enough commitment, he may allow you to be his disciple. Then you lived with him 24/7 and learned how to be LIKE HIM, not just to know what he knew. Eventually you would be a rabbi and have your own disciples.

When Jesus saw Peter, what was Peter doing? Matthew 4:18 a fisherman

What does that tell you ? not found worthy to be a disciple of another rabbi, if he had even gotten to that level. He didn't have what it takes.

In Acts 4:13, the Sanhedrin calls Peter and John "unschooled, ordinary men".

But Jesus came up to Peter and Andrew, and called THEM (they didn't choose HIM).

It was like saying 'I think you have what it takes to be like ME'

He didn't pick the rabbinical "all-stars"—he picked them.

Can you see how they would drop their nets and follow him immediately?

Then they lived with him and followed him, together all the time, learning to be LIKE him for several years, until his death.

In Matthew 14:26-32, Peter walked on the water like Jesus. He wanted to be like his

Rabbi so badly that he was willing to drown to do it. Then Jesus asks him "why did you doubt?" Did he lose faith in Jesus being able to keep him up? Jesus was still standing on the water. Perhaps he lost faith that God could really make HIM like the Master.

The other pivotal point in Peter's life was his denial of Jesus three times.

How humbling to realize that on the same night, you could swear you would follow him to the death, and then deny you even know him, not once, but three separate times.

How would Peter have felt when he first saw Jesus after the resurrection?

I think this is one of the experiences that made Peter such a humble and compassionate leader in the early church.

In Acts 9 and 10, Peter is staying at the home of Simon the Tanner. A tanner, because his job involved contact with dead animals, was looked down on, and even his home was considered unclean. Peter is already practicing the freedom we have in Christ and overcoming some long-held prejudices

About the epistle

Addressed to strangers in the world, scattered—Christians in those areas, predominantly of Gentile background, but there were some of Jewish background

Written from “Babylon”, a symbolic name for Rome used by writers trying to avoid trouble with the Roman authorities

Peter spent the last ten years of his life in Rome

This was written just before or during the outbreak of Nero’s persecution

About the church

Going through much suffering and trial from a pagan and hostile society

Persecution was not from the larger government yet, but more local, taking the form of slander, riots, police action, social ostracism

Other info

Many of the temples were magnificent, with stones that were cut and numbered in the quarry for an exact spot in the temple. The architect’s drawing would have each place for each stone numbered, and it was cut to fit that spot, and then marked with the corresponding number, so when it got to the building site, they knew exactly where it was to fit into the master plan for the temple. See 2:5

Difficult passages

3:7 the weaker partner—Pastor’s analogy of the boxing ring is the best explanation of this that I’ve heard. If husband and wife were in the boxing ring to “fight” with

each other over an issue that they can't come to an agreement on any other way, it's the wife's place to submit to her husband's decision. It's as if she deliberately lowers her gloves and stands there, vulnerable and unprotected. She is in a weaker position, where she can not only not win the fight, but where she chooses not to even be "in" the fight. She chooses to be the weaker partner, out of obedience to God. This is about issues in which you are at a stalemate, and can't seem to solve through discussion, etc. Thus, the husband should respect the wife, and be considerate of her, that she is willing to put herself in this position of vulnerability because of her love for God and for him.

3:19-20 Hard to find a consensus – it's a mystery to me!

According to Jack Ballinger (Maranatha Church) the spirits in prison are the fallen angels mentioned in Genesis 6:1-4, who mingled with women and tried to procreate a race of half human/half angel beings (Nephalim). This would prevent the future Savior from being fully human, like Adam, and thus foil the plan of God to send a Redeemer.

Jesus proclaimed to them that the work of redemption was complete and their plot had failed completely.

These are the only angels/demons that are in hell at present, in an area of hell here described as prison, which is different than the area where unbelieving people who have died go.

This makes sense to me, but I wouldn't hang any vital doctrines on it.