**BCM Bible Study - 3/16-17, 2022**

**1 Timothy 1:1-20**

Introduction: **Read 1 Timothy 1:1-2**

* What can we learn about the connection between Timothy and Paul from v. 2?
* These two letters to Timothy are Paul’s only letters with the greeting “Grace, **mercy**, and peace…” How does this further help you to understand their bond?
  + Why might Paul also extend mercy to his spiritual son?

Paul’s Command for Timothy: **Read 1 Timothy 1:3-11**

* Verses 3-4 feature a command from Paul about avoiding false doctrines and other minefields of wrong/unhelpful theology. When have you noticed people or churches led astray by these?
  + How can we make sure that our focus is truly upon “advancing God’s work”?
  + **Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-9** In what ways does this passage add to how you understand 1 Timothy 1:4? Which aspect of this kind of faith is most challenging to you?
* What can we learn about love from how Paul has associated it here with good theology and the correction of this false teaching in Ephesus?
* Paul seems to equate these three qualities (pure heart, good conscience, and sincere faith) with signs of a healthy relationship with God. These seem to be hard areas to honestly self-evaluate. How do you perform an honest inventory of growth and expression of these three qualities in your life?
  + What can we do to make sure that this won’t turn into legalism for us?
  + This return to the law was not uncommon and part of its challenges are mentioned throughout many NT letters. Which false teachings in culture (secular or Christian) might have a similar potential to be a threat to our faith today?
* In Paul’s desire to have Timothy help correct the false doctrine that those in Ephesus were experiencing, he seems rather concerned with the character of the believers. How frequently do you associate your character and outward actions with your faith?
  + What are some areas of your overall character where you think you still need to grow?
* Who then is the law made for?
  + How might Paul’s description of the law change the way that those elders and others subscribing to it used it?

God’s Mercy: **Read 1 Timothy 1:12-20**

* How do you most often express your gratitude to God?
  + What might the value be in us remembering all that God has forgiven us personally for?
* This is one of four trustworthy sayings found between the two letters to Timothy. How can we remind ourselves of Jesus’ centrality in this ‘trustworthy saying’?
  + Do you have trouble seeing yourself as a sinner? What might be steps you could take to help more accurately see all of the things for which God has forgiven you?
* Who are those people that you can’t forgive or have great difficulty forgiving? Which sins are most challenging to understand God forgiving?
  + **Read Acts 9:13-16 & 9:26-30** How did many in the church initially respond to Paul’s conversion?
  + What then does it look like for us to respond well to the work that God is doing in the lives of others?
* This section ends with Paul returning to speaking to Timothy on the purpose of this letter. How would Paul’s message serve to both encourage and challenge Timothy for the work that is ahead?
  + What can we learn about the connection between our faith and our morality from the emphasis here?

Challenge: One of the things which this first chapter of 1 Timothy has done is show how love and God’s grace ultimately impact every area of our lives. Keep a notecard, note on your phone, etc. over the next week going and mark down places where you observe that your following of Christ hasn’t been impacted.