**BCM Bible Study - 3/23-24, 2022**

**1 Timothy 2:1-3:16**

**Read 1 Timothy 2:1-15**

It is rather telling that the first thing which Paul recommends Timothy should do is spend time praying and interceding before God for others. What does this reveal to you about prayer’s priority?

* Have you thought about how God desires our lives to be marked by “godliness and holiness”?
  + How would your life look different if you lived it for the pursuit of “godliness and holiness”?
  + Why might Paul take this opportunity to use several of these verses to remind and represent the Gospel to Timothy?

How does Paul’s calling as an apostle here impact his love and care for the Gospel? How might your future career reflect the Gospel?

* What do Paul’s personal interludes and reflections add to his teaching/instruction in moments like this?

His first major command is for men to be prayer leaders. What is the benefit of men leading this in how it prepares them for other areas of leadership?

* Why is it important for those leading us to not pray in an angry or argumentative way publicly?
  + **Read Ephesians 6:18, James 5:13**, **Psalm 44:23-24** What about our personal prayer times might change how we can pray?
  + How do you express frustration to God within your personal prayer life?

The next several verses are argued about and controversial as Paul offers some explanation for the role of women within a corporate worship gathering. His encouragement continues the theme of focusing upon the character of the believer as important to faith.

* Paul charges Christian women to set themselves apart from the surrounding culture and make sure to prepare their hearts for worship - more so than their appearance.
  + Guys - the command for women to dress modestly does not offer you any excuse for impurity within your own hearts/life, that is your own sin.
* Paul’s call in verse 11 is perhaps in part due to the difference in education between the genders which was a reality then. However, this speaks about the heart posture which women should adopt before those **rightly** preaching God’s word.
* The command issued in verse 12 is likely referring to **spiritual** authority, while ‘teach’ is using the same Greek word that is elsewhere used for preaching. (Hughes)
* Both Adam and Eve partook of fruit in the garden and became sinners. They were meant to work as a team together, both with equal value, fulfilling different roles and glorifying God through this.
* Verse 15 refers to childbearing and this likely is not literal but instead points to how it is by trusting in and following God’s design is what we are called to (both gender roles and otherwise), and having faith will lead to salvation.

How can we as followers of Jesus navigate these tough, sometimes uncomfortable passages of Scripture well?

**Read 1 Timothy 3:1-16**

* What makes desiring to be an overseer noble?
  + Do any adjectives or requirements of overseers listed in 3:1-7 surprise you? Why is that?
* What can we learn from the emphasis that verse 5 places upon ministering to your own family?
  + How often now do we see verse 7 as a requirement for a leader in the church? Why is this important?
  + Are these qualifications too high? Why does this matter for our leaders?
* What differences do you notice between the qualifications for overseers and deacons?
* **Read Romans 16:1** This verse in conjunction with 3:11 would suggest women can be deacons.
* How does all of the priority placed on good character challenge the way that you think about your own character and how it reflects your position as a disciple?
* Do you often think about the reward which awaits believers in Heaven? How might this impact how you live your life on earth?
* Verse 14 is a thesis statement of sorts. Why is Paul so deeply concerned about the church’s organization?
  + Why might Paul wait until here to share his reason for writing?
* What does the reminder of Jesus and how He allows us to truly be Godly add here?
* Has this discussion changed how you view these church positions?