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

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

Paul transitions to the meat of the letter here as he begins to speak on the appropriate ordering of the worship service and church structure. In this, he speaks of the roles of men and women, qualifications for different leaders, and a bit more on why he wrote this letter.

**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?
  + *God is okay with us praying angrily or even yelling at Him, he can handle it! Yet, us praying about some deeply troubling things in such a fashion publicly might be more detrimental than helpful for everyone.*
  + 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**

Overseer = bishop, but we shouldn’t understand that like a Catholic bishop. Instead, this position is better understood as a teaching elder within the church or even a pastor.

* 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?

**Challenge:** Over the next week, spend time each day praying that God would help you to submit every aspect of your life to the teaching of Scripture - even where it’s hardest!

**Extra Notes**

* Even though the word isn’t used, Acts 6:1-7 describes the initial forming of the position of deacon within the early church. While these people were meant to focus on the more practical, physical needs of the church that doesn’t make their position any less - look at verse 7!
* Once again, the instruction for women in verses 11-12 only applies to the worship service. This does not apply to the workplace or other areas of life.
  + 2 Timothy 1:5 mentions the faith of Timothy’s grandmother and mother, alluding to the way that the two of them probably had a big impact upon Timothy’s upbringing and helping him to come to faith!
  + Acts 16:1 adds to this picture of Timothy’s background.
* Acts 18:24-26 speaks of the way that Priscilla and Aquila instructed Apollos in the faith within their own home and helped to correct his beliefs/understanding.
  + Priscilla and Aquila are mentioned six times in the NT, four times with Priscilla first. This does show some significance for the strength of her faith.
  + Romans 16 also features several women among the list of people who Pauls greets and speaks positively of whom he speaks positively.
  + All of this is here to further show the value of women within the early church and how acknowledging the inherent differences in God’s design is NOT admitting inferiority, simply a difference in purpose.
* Some suggest that 1 Timothy 2:15 could be referring to Jesus and how everyone will only be saved through Him, yet this is not a very straightforward reference which is why it is not favored (Guthrie).

Extra questions (Even as Paul gave these instructions with each specific gender in mind, there are things which we can all learn and grow in from the principles.)

* What might be the value of focusing on ‘good deeds’ over exterior adorning?
* How can we all grow in preparing ourselves for worship (Sunday at church) as opposed to just wearing our “Sunday Best”?
* How is a posture of submission in learning from others beneficial for all believers?

“Neither do these directives allow any man with the church, by virtue of his gender, to exercise authority over women in the church. Such more generally explicit authority only exists within the sacred covenant of marriage and family, and then it is only to be exercised with the self-giving spirit of Christ (cf. Ephesians 5:22-33). Lastly, Paul’s instructions have nothing to say about male and female equality. Such equality had been established from the beginning (see Genesis 1:27) by virtue of man and woman being created in the *imago Dei.* [image of God] And the mutual spiritual equality of men and women “in Christ” were given spectacular expression by Paul himself *earlier* in Galatians 3:28.” (Hughes)