

Possessing The Right Hope **1 Timothy 1:1-3**

Introduction:

1. Do you know fellow believers who are **not** of your physical family, but they're just like family? Isn't this awesome? This book of the Bible is written out of a relationship like that. vs. 2
2. Timothy was a spiritual son to the apostle Paul. Paul had left Timothy in Ephesus to minister there while Paul traveled to Macedonia.
3. Paul writes this letter to Timothy to exhort and encourage him to "hang in there," and he uses the analogy of a soldier fighting in a war. vs. 18; cf. Ephesians 6:11
4. But if a soldier is to war a good warfare, he must possess **hope**. A soldier with no hope is a discouraged and probably ineffective soldier. But a soldier with hope will keep fighting, even if the battle gets tough and he stands in peril.
5. Paul deals with this issue of hope in the very first verse of the book.
 - This word "*hope*" means "anticipation; expectation; confidence." It's not a wishy-washy, maybe so, probably so type of thing. It is a steadfast confidence.
6. Where is your confidence? Where does your expectation lie? It had better be in the right place! If you put your confidence in a shaky foundation, you're in trouble. Disaster waits!
 - **Illustration:** Trying to stand on an empty cardboard box
7. Every person must possess the right hope. It is essential. Paul makes it clear to Timothy that there is one place of confidence, expectation, or hope, and that is Jesus Christ!
8. If your hope today lies in your job, your money, your house, your stocks and bonds, your religion, or your relationships, you are on a shaky foundation. Christ is your hope.
9. Why should Christ be a person's only hope and confidence?

First, Christ alone is Savior.

1. The word "Savior" means "deliverer." What do we need to be saved from? The Bible is clear. We need to be saved from our sins and the destruction that will come to this present evil world from the hand of God. Galatians 1:4
2. Did you know Christ desires to be your Savior? He alone is Savior because He alone was God in the flesh, dying for our sins.
3. Let me show you something that is pretty awesome. The word "*Saviour*" is used 6 times in the book of Titus. Notice how the word "*Saviour*" is used interchangeably with "*God*" and "*Jesus Christ*" (1:3, 1:4, 2:10, 2:13, 3:4, 3:6). cf. 2 Timothy 1:10
4. Christ alone is Savior because He is the only One that abolished death. When Christ appeared, it was a wonderful day for this world. There was now hope, a way to be eternally delivered from death, a way to escape it, and a way to overcome it. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

Second, Christ alone is Lord.

1. Notice in verse 1 that Paul refers to Jesus as “*Lord Jesus Christ.*” Again in verse 2 he refers to him as “*Jesus Christ our Lord.*” The term “*Lord*” means “absolute authority.” cf. 6:15
 - Jesus is called the “*only Potentate [ruler]*” and “*Lord of lords.*”
2. If your hope is in anything but Christ, this means you are trying to place something or someone above Christ, and that is impossible. He is Lord! Therefore, **He** is our hope!
3. Jesus is no longer on the cross; He is risen! He is ascended, and He is exalted. Philippians 2:9-11; Ephesians 1:20-22
4. You cannot get any higher than the Lord Jesus Christ. He is not a little god. He is not an exalted angel. He is not simply another prophet. He sure isn't a curse word!
5. He is Lord. He is supreme in authority. He is to be believed on and submitted to.
6. Do a study of the word “*Lord*” in just 1 and 2 Timothy. You will find that, as Lord, He gives mercy, understanding, delivers, will judge every person, will hand out rewards, strengthens, preserves us, dwells in our spirits, and is to be called upon in prayer.
7. The doctrine of Jesus Christ is so important. It is the difference between heaven and hell (vs. 3). If you are wrong on the doctrine of Jesus Christ, you cannot be saved (cf. Galatians 1:6-8; 1 Corinthians 16:22). This brings us to our last point.

Third, Christ alone can reconcile sinners.

1. As we said, Christ alone is Savior. It is Jesus Christ that saves sinners. vs. 15
2. Think about this fact. God (who is a Spirit) is sinless, and people (who are humans) are sinners. God cannot fellowship with sin. Therefore there is a huge gap and breach created between us and God by our sin.
3. How can that gap be bridged? We desperately need somebody who can mediate and bring peace with God for human beings that are sinners.
4. Thankfully, God the Father has provided that Mediator. Who is it? 2:5
 - Notice, there aren't several mediators. It isn't multiple choice. There is one, and it is the man Christ Jesus. Christ alone is mediator. Why? Because He was fully God (3:16), but fully man (flesh). He is the God-Man. He is the perfect Mediator.
5. In order for us to be reconciled to God and have peace with God, our sin had to be dealt with. Christ dealt with it fully on the cross. 2:6
6. Christ bridged the gap between us and God by paying the price for our sin – death!
7. Now do you understand why Paul wrote what he did in verse 2? “*Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord...*”
8. There is now a way to find grace, mercy, and peace with God. If you have trusted Christ as your Savior, do you know what happened the moment you got saved? You received:
 - **Grace** – You became an object of God's favor by faith in Christ alone.

Mercy – You were released from the sentence of judgment you deserved.

Peace – You were brought into a position of complete peace with God.

9. Only Jesus Christ could do this for you. That is why Christ alone is our hope.

In Conclusion:

1. It is easy to understand why Paul told Timothy to see that he teach “*no other doctrine.*”
2. In context, he is speaking of the doctrine of Jesus Christ, who is our hope. He alone is our Lord. He alone is our Savior. It is not Christ plus something else.
3. Many religions hold to a doctrine of good works in order to achieve salvation from sin. Some hold to a list of religious rituals, some baptism, some hold to other religious teachers or prophets, some hold to their visions and experiences.
4. Paul says to Timothy, “See that you teach no other doctrine.” There is no hope for sinners apart from the Lord Jesus Christ!