

DISCUSSION NOTES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

Start by praying and asking for God's help as you seek to grow as authentic followers of Jesus.

GETTING STARTED

1. Each person share one "high point" (something good that has happened) from the last few weeks.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

2. Read 1 Timothy 1:3-11. Make 5-7 quick observations. What is the big idea? Where is the tension? What groups of people are mentioned? What stands out to you?
3. Read Exodus 20:1-21. These verses are connected to what Paul writes in 1 Timothy 1:8-11. Can you identify which sins in Paul's list of vices correspond to which of the ten commandments?
4. Read 1 Timothy 1:12-20. Make 5-7 quick observations. What is the big idea? What words or phrases stand out to you? What seems difficult? What is surprising?
5. 1 Timothy 1:15 strongly states the focal point of Paul's message: "The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." This statement captures the gospel message in a succinct, clear way. Take a few minutes to define each of the following according to the Bible:
 - Christ - _____
 - Jesus - _____
 - came - _____
 - into the world - _____
 - to save - _____
 - sinners - _____

LIVING IT OUT

6. As you consider the gospel and the testimony that Paul shares about his own salvation, what most excites you, blows your mind, or stirs your affections?
7. When did *you* first believe that "the grace of our Lord overflowed" for *you* so that Christ came to save *you* from your sins? If you have not done so, what is keeping you from taking this step?
8. Do you view your spiritual life as "waging the good warfare"? Why or why not?

How might this mindset change your perspective and daily approach to life?
9. Paul speaks of the importance of "holding faith and a good conscience." This might be understood as holding fast to Christian beliefs and practicing Christian behavior. How does this passage teach us that right belief and right behavior are connected (that one flows out of the other)?
10. When Paul talks about God's grace, he begins with *gratitude* (vs 12 - "I thank him") and ends with *praise* (vs 17 - "to the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever").

How can you allow the super-abundance of God's grace toward you to shape your gratitude and praise this week?