

1. We are now considering Paul's personal correspondence to Timothy, his "spiritual son."
2. The most important thing of all is to invest in the lives of others. We must not be too busy for that.
3. There is great similarity between Paul's letter to Timothy and the one to Titus.
4. Two "trustworthy sayings":
  - A. 1 Timothy 1:15: "Christ came into the world to save sinners - of whom I am the worst." This is foundational - it is the heart of Christianity. Jesus purpose in coming to earth was to "save" sinners. We, as sinners, are the recipients of that grace.
  - B. 1 Timothy 3:1: "If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task."
    1. The list of qualifications for leadership is nearly the same as the one in Titus.
    2. "Elders" and "overseers" are used interchangeably in Titus; "deacons" and "overseers" are different offices.
    3. Timothy's list adds "able to teach" and not a recent convert.
    4. The wife must also meet these qualifications.
5. Paul clearly assumes that the leaders of the churches will be men. The lists are to men. 1 Timothy 2:11-15 is difficult to understand, but reinforces this idea. The sin nature of human beings is traced back to Adam, not Eve. There are differing views on this subject, so pray and search the Scripture for yourself.
6. The Doctrine of Christ:
  - A. He is the one mediator between God and man - He is the bridge.
  - B. 1 Timothy 3:16: the incarnation, resurrection, ascension, and exaltation of Christ
7. Paul's belief in the power of prayer:
  - A. Requests, petitions, intercession, thanksgiving - all part of prayer
  - B. Pray for everyone - especially kings and those in authority over us.
  - C. We need fervency in prayer in order to lead godly lives.
  - D. He calls on men (males) to lift up holy hands in prayer.
8. Hymaneus and Alexander were spiritual "shipwrecks."

1. These chapters are given by Paul to Timothy to advise him on how people are to conduct themselves in God's household.
  
2. A third "trustworthy saying":
  - A. 1 Timothy 4:8 & 9: "...physical training has some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying..."
  - B. OR 1 Timothy 4:9: "This is a trustworthy saying...that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe."
    1. This verse is the basis for 'universalism', the belief that in the end God will condemn no one.
    2. This does not work in the light of the larger context of Scripture.
      - a. John 3:16-18
      - b. John 14:6
      - c. And myriad of other passages
    3. God's salvation is available to all and Christ's death is sufficient for all - but the only ones forgiven are those who believe in Him.
  
3. 1 Timothy 6:10: "The love of money is the root of all evil." Money in itself is not evil - it is merely a tool that can be used for good or evil.
  
4. Caring for widows:
  - A. There was no social system in those days. Widows without families were in dire straits.
  - B. Both the books of Acts and James discuss this matter.
  - C. Eligibility requirements were listed: Over 60; without relatives capable of caring for her; virtues of faithfulness and righteousness evident in her life
  
5. Timothy's public ministry:
  - A. Devote himself to the public reading of Scripture
  - B. Devote himself to teaching and preaching
  
6. The issue of slavery is again raised...though it is seen as evil, slaves are enjoined to be loyal and respectful to their masters.
  
7. The letter ends with Paul reminding Timothy that we are waiting for the return of Christ. "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be glory, and honor forever, and ever, Amen!"

1. The Book of 2 Timothy is the last thing Paul wrote that has been preserved for us.
2. This last letter of Paul's would have been written during his second imprisonment just before his death at the command of Nero.
3. Paul's epitaph: "I am already being poured out like a drink offering and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will award to me on that day - and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing."
4. Finished Well:
  - Paul
  - Lois and Eunice
  - Onesiphorus
  - Crescens, Titus, Mark, Tychius, Carpus
  - Priscilla and Aquilla
  - Trophimus
  - Eubulus, Prudens, Linus, ClaudiaDid not Finish Well:
  - Phygelus and Hermogenes (deserters)
  - Demas (loved the world)
  - Alexander (spiritually shipwrecked)
5. Discipleship is costly:
  - A. Chapter 1: "Join me in suffering."
  - B. Chapter 2: "Be strong in the grace that is in Christ."
  - C. "Endure hardship like a good soldier."
  - D. "Compete like an athlete."
  - E. "Work hard like a farmer."
  - F. "Guard the deposit with which you have been entrusted."
6. A fourth "trustworthy saying": 2 Timothy 2:11: "If we died with Him, we will also live with Him; if we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we disown Him, He will also disown us; if we are faithless, He will remain faithful for He cannot disown Himself."
  - A. The second part of the creed assures that God does not stop loving us and will not abandon us.
  - B. The first part reminds us that we dare not sever our connection with Him.
7. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." The Bible is not man's word about God - it is God's Word about Himself!
8. Inspiration: Literally, "exhaled by God." It is completely authoritative. The facts never change on God - He is in full possession of them all. His Word is always true.
9. Our Doctrine of Scripture is that it is infallible (completely authoritative), and inerrant (incapable of error about anything).

1. Daniel is a contemporary of Ezekiel, taken into captivity in Babylon after Nebuchadnezzar's first attack on Jerusalem. The Babylonian overlords took the young men with the most potential into exile to reduce the risk of a successful revolt against the empire to get a talented new pool of future leaders for the empire.

<u>2. Hebrew Name</u>	<u>Hebrew meaning</u>	<u>Babylonian Name</u>	<u>Babylonian meaning</u>
Daniel	God is my judge	Beltshazzar	Bel is judge
Hananiah	Jehovah has shown grace	Shadrach	The command of Aku the moon god
Mishael	Who is what God is?	Meshach	Who is what Aku is?
Azariah	Jehovah has helped	Abednego	Servant of Nego

3. Nebuchadnezzar (the king) and Arioch (commander of the king's guard) are the other 2 main characters from today's reading.

4. The issue in chapter 1 is compromise. Daniel and his friends distinguished themselves as men of principle, unwilling to compromise themselves for the sake of personal advancement.

- A. God honored them for their commitment to His laws.
- B. God takes note of the "small" decisions we make - standing strong in the smaller matters gives us the ability to stand strong in bigger crises.
- C. The Jews were not vegetarians, so the aversion of Daniel and his friends may have been to the type of meat being offered.

5. Dreams:

- A. Pharaoh, whose dream Joseph interpreted; Abimelech, whom Abraham and Sarah deceived; Jacob's ladder
- B. And now - Nebuchadnezzar - his first encounter with the living God
  - 1. This book emphasizes:
    - a. God's sovereignty - only God can reveal the contents of the dream
    - b. The power of prayer - Daniel's plan for discovering the dream - before he has even heard it - is to pray
    - c. The long-range scope of redemption - the contents of the dream and the 4 empires
    - d. The grace of God - God remembers His servants in exile; He shows favor to them; He answers Daniel's prayers

6. History - the 4 Empires:

- A. The Neo-Babylonian Empire: 605BC - 539BC
- B. The Medo-Persian Empire: 539BC - 334BC
- C. The Greco-Macedonian Empire: 534BC - 190BC (final conquest by Rome in 31BC)
- D. The Roman Empire: 190BC - 476BC

7. In Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the fifth empire is the Kingdom of God, ruled over by Christ and enduring forever.

8. Nebuchadnezzar's dream was intended to clearly establish that Jehovah was the "God of gods".

9. Chapters 2-7 are written in Aramaic, the language of the Babylonians - God wanted them to be able to read what He had said about them.

1. So far in Daniel we have watched God's dealings with one very powerful and proud despot named Nebuchadnezzar:
  - A. The reports from Nebuchadnezzar's spies about the holy man, Jeremiah and His God
  - B. The remarkable progress of the 4 Jewish young men who refused to eat his meat
  - C. The dream - Nebuchadnezzar was beginning to pay attention to Daniel and his God
  
2. Chapter 3: The statue Nebuchadnezzar erected of himself on the Plains of Dura:
  - A. Daniel was absent, but Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were there.
  - B. Nebuchadnezzar had a huge amount of pride.
  - C. Perhaps he was trying to unite the politics and the religion of the land.
  - D. He was furious at the refusal of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to bow down to him.
    1. Their faith in God is amazing - They believed that god would deliver them - but even if He did not, they would never worship Nebuchadnezzar. Isaiah 43:1-3 may well have been in their minds: "...when you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, through flames and they will not burn you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy one of Israel, your deliverer."
      - a. Their deliverer joined them in the fire. The 4<sup>th</sup> person "like unto the Son of God".
      - b. This was a Christophany - a preincarnate appearance of Jesus.
      - c. Seeing this was another step in the king's march toward faith.
  
3. Chapter 4: The personal testimony of King Nebuchadnezzar, written in his own hand Aramaic:
  - A. He was the greatest king in the history of the world in his day; the builder of the hanging gardens of Babylon, one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world; a prolific builder
  - B. And then he had another dream - which was fulfilled a year later (God's grace...)
    1. For 7 years he lived as a mad man - a beast - in the gardens of his kingdom, as the dream had predicted.
    2. At the end of those 7 years, a much chastened and repentant king is given back his kingdom.
    3. He ends with these words: "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the king of heaven, for all His acts are right and His ways are just and He can bring low those whose conduct is arrogant."
  - C. In Isaiah the Lord declares: "I will not share my glory with any man." - This explains this incident.
  - D. King Nebuchadnezzar experienced God's irresistible grace. We cannot hold out indefinitely against the sovereign hand of God.