

SERMON OUTLINE

FIRST TIMOTHY

'Faith and Order in the Church of God' - 1

1st Timothy 1 v12 - 17

Context - Having spoken in verses 8 to 11 about how the law of God condemns the sinner, Paul now speaks about how the gospel of God (the "glorious gospel" - v11) saves the sinner. As an example of how this happens Paul gives testimony to his own conversion. Note - we are not to consider Paul's conversion as 'a one off'. No - it's a pattern conversion. See v16 (A.V.) - "for a pattern to those who believe."

Key question - Is this conversion your conversion?

There are 4 things to note about this gospel which had such a converting impact on Paul's life:-

1. THE SUBSTANCE OF THE GOSPEL

See v15. The gospel is all about how Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Note - Paul came to see himself as "the worst of sinners" when he was confronted by the glory of the risen Christ on the Damascus road. See Rom 3 v23.

2. THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

A. THE LOVE OF GOD

This love is an amazing love. Think of all that Paul was. See v13a & Acts 26 v9 - 11. Paul uses 2 words here to explain the outworking of God's love - mercy and grace.

**Mercy is when God, in His love, doesn't give us
what we do deserve**

See v13b. Key point - Though Paul was culpable, he was not unpardonable. See Lk 23 v34a.

**Grace is when God, in His love, does give us
what we don't deserve**

See v14a. Lit - 'super abounding grace'.

B. THE POWER OF GOD

See v14b. It's only the gospel that can change men of unbelief and hatred into men of faith and love.

3. THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL

See v15 - 16. Hope for even the very worst of sinners!

4. THE END OF THE GOSPEL

See v17. Glory to God!