

Transcript - 20250810

Speaker 1

Open your Bibles to 1 Timothy 2, and this is going to be our launching point into today's lesson. 1 Timothy 2, verses 3 through 4. 1 Timothy 2, verses 3 through 4. And this is what Paul writes, and it's sharing the heart of Jesus. He says, this is good and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior. And this is what he says about God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. I want you to really focus in on what he says is God's desire, is Jesus's desire. And maybe this is something that you underline in your Bible, that you highlight in your Bible or in your digital copy or your physical copy, whatever it might be. This is good is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior. He's kind of going through a thought here, but then he zooms in on this, who desires all people to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. And that idea there that God has a desire, Jesus has a desire, the Holy Spirit has a desire for each and every one of us. And that desire starts with one very important phrase, one very important decision, one very important moment in our life, and that is that we are all what? Say it out loud. He says his desire is for all of us to be saved. Now, what does that idea mean? The idea of being saved in Scripture is that there are really kind of two paths in life. There is a path that I can take that if I so choose, I can rule my life. I can make the decision to make all of my decisions for myself. I can make the decision to live my life for myself. I can make the decision that everything I do in my life is for the sole purpose of benefiting myself. And I have that right. I have that decision. I've said over and over, a lot of you have heard me say this, that Christianity is a voluntary business. I'm not here to make you do anything. I'm not here to force you to do anything. My role as a preacher, as a minister, is to try to convince you that volunteering your life, your time, your effort to Jesus is the best decision that you can ever make. But you get to make that decision, and you can make the decision in your life that I'm going to for myself and for myself only. I'm not going to live for anybody else or anything else. You can make the decision in your life to live for a cause, any cause that you want to live for. Good cause, bad cause. You can live for a hobby. You can live for a sport. You can live for a relationship. You get to decide what you want to live for. In that decision comes the idea that you can either live in a way that leads you into a relationship with God and then into an eternal home in heaven and eternity with him forever, or those decisions can lead you into a life of sin and into an eternal home in hell. Now, those kind of parameters, that kind of statement, that kind of idea is something that's sometimes uncomfortable to talk about, right? In our world today, we don't really like to talk a lot about consequences. We don't like to talk about the good and the bad and the ugly. We like to talk about the what? The good. Everybody loves the good, right? Everybody loves the positive. Everybody loves the roses and the feel-good stuff. We don't like to think about that I could possibly be making decisions in my life that

are leading me to a place called hell. Even that word, to some degree, probably makes some people real uncomfortable this morning. But Jesus says, or rather Paul says about God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, he says that he has this desire, he has this want, he has this feeling within him that he wants for each and every one of us to make the decisions in our life. He's not going to make us, he's not going to force us, but his want for you this morning is a positive. It's the most positive want that anybody could have for you. He wants you to be saved. He wants you to make the decisions in your life that say, I'm not just going to live for myself, but I'm going to live for God. I'm going to live for this Father. I'm going to live for the Son. I'm going to live for the Holy Spirit. And in that, that means I'm going to live And because of that, I'm ultimately going to live a life of salvation. Now, God says, I want you to do this. And if God wants us to do this, if God desires for us to do this, God's going to also provide a way for us to do this, right? God said, I'm not, God's never going to ask us of something, ask something of us or want something of us if he's not going to provide a way for us to receive those things. And that's what I want us to really focus on for a few moments together this morning. Turn in your Bibles to Mark chapter 16. Mark chapter 16. As Jesus is getting ready to leave this earth for the final time, he's already left this earth once through his death, burial, and his resurrection. He was resurrected. He came and he lived for a little bit longer. And he's having an intimate moment with his closest group of friends one last time, one last time.

Speaker 2

And he tells them,

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believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. So he says, I'm giving you some instructions, some things that I want you to do. And these are the words of Jesus.

Speaker 2

Matthew thing, this is a Jesus thing. He says, "I want you to go, and I want you to go to all the world, and I want you to preach my message." And the response to that message is this, He will accomplish what Jesus desires for you to accomplish.

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Again, that's not a Matthew thing. That's not a church thing. That's a Jesus thing. And we want to just keep it about Jesus. Now, what do we receive in that baptism? I think that's an important thing to talk about. Go to Acts chapter 2. In Acts chapter 2, the gospel is preached for the very first time. And we see the result of that message in a very, very, very powerful way. As Peter is preaching and teaching to the people on the day of Pentecost, he's surrounded by people from all over kind of the modern world at the time. And he's talking about all the things that they did to Jesus, the way that they mistreated him, the way that they ended up crucifying him. and during the middle of that lesson, during the middle of that lesson, someone just stops them. Someone just stops them and like they're so convicted, they're so just, you know, they're overwhelmed by the emotions,

they're overwhelmed by the message, and they just stop him right in the middle of what he's saying and he questions it. Acts chapter 2, starting in verse 36, he says, Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this. God has made this Jesus whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah. And that's what gets this guy. When the people heard this, they were cut to their hearts and said to Peter and the other apostles, brothers, what shall we do? What shall we do? How are we to be saved? How do we overcome the mistakes that we've done? Okay, what do we do next? Peter replied, repent and be baptized every one of you. Now, what Peter has just told them is not necessarily new information, right? Peter is just repeating the message of who? Jesus. So this is not new. This is something that Jesus has already taught them. They're just sharing what Jesus has already taught them, but they're going to share a little bit more. They're going to say, hey, not just this repentance and baptism, but let me share with you what you receive in this moment of repentance and baptism, because it's not just about getting wet. There is a benefit to this repentance and baptism. He says, repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, and here's the benefits, for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. So when I decide in my life that I'm going to live for me, I'm not going to live for God. I'm not going to go down the road of living in righteousness. I'm just going to live for myself. When that's the direction that I go, I'm separating myself from God. I'm separating myself from the blessings of God. I'm separating myself from the forgiveness of God, and I'm living in the sinfulness of the world. And if I'm ever going to come into a relationship with God, I'm going to have to have forgiveness of those things because righteousness and unrighteousness cannot coexist. God is righteous. God is pure. God is holy. Holiness and unholiness cannot coexist with each other. If I'm living unholy life, I cannot exist with a holy God. So I have to come into a forgiving relationship, have those things washed away. My baptism does that. It puts me in a holy place so that I can coexist with God. It forgives me. But also, just as importantly, it gives me the gift of, what's the next part of that? the gift of the Holy Spirit. That's something I believe in our own teachings through the years that we have missed out on teaching a little bit. The teaching of the Holy Spirit is vital to our salvation. We talk a lot about repentance and confession and baptism and forgiveness, but within our teaching, we have forgotten the importance of the Holy Spirit. Go to the book of Ephesians, Ephesians chapter 1. Because Paul, as he begins writing the book of Ephesians, he begins to talk about the three different parts of God, and he begins to praise the three different parts of God, and the unique parts of the three parts of God. And towards the end of this big section of praise, he comes to the Holy Spirit. And in verse 13, he says, and you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, when you believed you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who were God's possession to the praise of his glory. So when we believe and we are baptized, when we repent and we are baptized, we receive forgiveness, but we also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. And what does the Holy Spirit do for us in our life? He marks us. He seals us. And that seal is so important. I think about that seal in this way. I think about a rancher. I think about a

rancher who seals or marks his cattle with his ranch seal. And no matter where that cow or where that horse goes, when you look at that cattle and you see that seal, you know who that cattle belongs to, right? That belongs to such and such or this guy or that guy. When we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, when people look at us and they see the Holy Spirit in our life, they know we belong to who? Say it loud. They know we belong to who? They know we belong to God. We belong to Christ. We don't belong to the world. We're different than the world. We're marked by God with His Holy Spirit. Without that mark, we are not saved. Without the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, without that gift, we are not saved. And he also says that it is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance. He says, look, once you become a child of God, Once you are baptized and you receive that forgiveness, he says, I'm also going to give you something to guarantee your inheritance, something that says I'm with you, something that says you've already got a little bit of it. We're always looking forward to our inheritance, aren't we? We always talk about when we die, we're going to go to where? Heaven. When we die, little man, they lived a great life, and now they've gained their inheritance. But what's the idea of a deposit? A deposit is, I'm going to go ahead and give you a little bit of it now, even though you're going to get the rest of it when? Later. But he says, I'm going to go ahead and give you the Holy Spirit now. So in a way, we are already reaping the benefits of our inheritance because we already have part of it. We have the Holy Spirit indwelling within us. He says, I'm going to go ahead and give him to you so that you can know what's to come, so that you can go ahead and see the benefits of what's to come. You can reap some of those benefits right now. Now, what we tend to do, what we tend to do is we treat the Holy Spirit like a check sometimes, right? That I may write you a check, and it's the deposit for something for later. And a lot of times we might take that check. How many of you have ever put a check in your pocket, in your wallet, in your purse, and you forgot that you had it? Anybody ever done that? Good, I'm glad it's not just me. You forgot that you did that. Now, technically, do you have the money? Technically, is the money yours? Yes. But have you benefited from that money? Have you benefited from it? No, because you've not cashed it. We do that with the Holy Spirit sometimes. We take him, we put him in our wallet. We put them in our back pocket. We've got it, but we've not cashed it out. We've not benefited from it. It's ours. It's there, but we're not using it. We're not really living in the deposit of the inheritance. Peter tells everybody, you receive forgiveness. You receive this gift. Paul goes on to say, this gift is your mark. It's your seal that lets everybody know I belong to Jesus. And I'm giving you a little taste of heaven right now through the Holy Spirit. I'm giving him to you. Live in him. Let him bless you. Don't put him in your pocket. Don't put him up on the shelf. Let him live and bless you in your life. That is our direct contact with God on a daily basis is through the deposit of the Holy Spirit, through the gift of the Holy Spirit. but we only get that deposit through that moment of baptism. And that's something that we have neglected to teach. We've neglected to teach that. And it's something that we've got to make sure that we share. One more passage that I want to share with you this morning. Go to 1 Peter 3. 1 Peter 3. And this is a passage that I'm so glad is included in Scripture Paul talks about how baptism is supposed to be a doctrine of

unity. And within believers in Christ, baptism has become a doctrine of division. And I don't think, matter of fact, I know that's not what Jesus wanted. It's not what the Holy Spirit wants. It's not what God wants. Because through the Holy Spirit, Paul calls it a doctrine of unity. But we've made it a point of division in people who believe in Christ. I want you to go to chapter 3 and start with me in verse 20. And he says, To those who were disobedient long ago, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ark was being built, in it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water. And this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also. Not the removal of dirt from the body, but the pledge of a clear conscience towards God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand with angels, authorities, and powers in submission to him. The reason I'm glad that this passage is in Scripture is because it addresses what has become two of the main teachings of salvation within those who believe in Jesus. It addresses the issue of baptism, of water baptism for salvation, and it addresses the issue of confession for salvation. There are people that believe with all of their heart that all I have to do is confess the name of Jesus, call on his name, and I'm going to be saved. There are people who believe that all I have to do is be baptized and I'm going to be saved. This passage reminds us and tells us that I can be baptized and just focus on the outward process and be wrong. It teaches me that I can focus on just the confession and not fully understand what God is asking of me, what he's saying is it has to incorporate both to make the process complete. Look at what he says. He says, and this water symbolizes, verse 21, he says, and this water symbolizes baptism, that now what? Saves you. So, if 1 Timothy tells us that God desires for us to be saved, we find that salvation through the process of baptism, right? But look at what he says. He says, not the removal of dirt from the body. So baptism is not just about a physical moment, correct? It's not just about getting wet. If you feel like baptism, I've been baptized because I got wet, he said, if you're doing it just because you think the physical part was done, he said, you've misunderstood the whole process. He said, it's not just about the physical outside, he says, but the pledge of a clear conscience towards God. He says that physical outside part does have to be matched with a confession, a pledge of a clear conscience of saying, God, you are my king. You are my savior. I have to take both of those moments, both of those teachings, if you will, have to be joined together in perfect unity for me to be right with God. You know, it's almost like God knew we were going to mess that up in our human nature, that some of us were going to come over here and go, baptism, baptism, baptism, get wet, get wet, get wet. And some of us were going to come over here and go, no, confession, confession, confession, just confess, confess It's all got to be done together. It's not just about getting wet. It's not just about saying Jesus is my Lord and Savior. It's about the beauty of all of it coming together and going, Jesus wants me to be saved. He says that my baptism saves me. And in this moment of my baptism, I'm also pledging my life to him. I am saying that he is my king. I am calling on him as my Savior. He is going to be the one that I live my life for. forever and ever and ever because it's not about me. It's about him. I love the way it ends. He goes, it saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Who does the saving? Do I do

the saving? Does the person doing the baptizing do the saving? Who does the saving? It saves you by the power of the resurrection through Jesus Christ. I love the way that he brings that together and says, hey, look, let's not mess it up. This is supposed to be a doctrine of unity. So let's be in unity behind the doctrine, behind the teaching, and just do what Jesus asks us to do. Because Jesus' desire is for all of us to simply be what? To be saved. And if that's Jesus' desire this morning, then that's my desire. It's for you to simply be saved, for you to be right with Jesus, for you to live with him as your king, for you to live with him as your savior, for you to live with him as your all in all. You know, this particular type of lesson, I understand, number one, it can bring on a lot of emotions from maybe past conversations, I want you to know I don't share these things with you this morning to upset you or to make you mad. I simply share these things with you because Jesus wants you to be saved and because I do feel like he lays out a simplistic way and clear way for us to accomplish that. I do want you to know, as I said at the beginning, if you have questions about this, if you go, hey, Matthew, I've been taught something different. I'm not sure. Then please, let's sit down and talk. Let's open up the Word of God. Let's look more in depth together. Let's pray together. Let's study together. And let's try to simply find the truth and try to fulfill what God's desire is for us and His desire for us to be saved. I don't want anybody to walk out this morning mad. I don't want anybody to walk out this morning upset or thinking that this is pointed at anybody. This is simply just a restart, a reset for us to start down a road to just making

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sure that above everything else, we are simply trying to be right with God today.