

Shepherds & Servants 5

Know God & Obey His Call

1 Timothy 2:5-7, 3:16)

Memory Verses: 1 Timothy 2:5

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

We are now more than a month into our study in 1 Timothy and what it means to be Spiritual Shepherds and Sacrificial Servant leaders in the local church. Where as Elders and Deacons are held to a higher standard and must show these qualities, all believers are to protect the Gospel, praise God for his mercy, Hold to the faith, and pray for the people. Today we add another one of those which can seem obvious, yet we need to be reminded of on a consistent basis. Know God and obey his call. Look at what Paul says to Timothy in **1 Timothy 2:5-7**. Paul reminds his disciple of who God is, who Jesus is, and what Jesus has done, and then speaks of his own responsibility to preach that truth to the unreached.

And though you have heard this probably a hundred times in church. You've probably heard it over a hundred times in the last 7 years alone. We cannot escape the Bible's unrelenting pursuit to commission us into the ministry of God. When we know who he is and what he has done for us, our response is praise, prayer, and eventually it must become preaching! Theology leads to doxology which leads to missiology. The knowledge of God leads to the admiration of God which leads to the mission of God. Another way of saying it if you aren't getting the picture is that faith leads to conversion, conversion leads to discipleship, discipleship leads to transformation, and transformation leads to evangelism. In other words, you cannot have a real knowledge of who God is and the works of his Son and simply sit on the sidelines of history as people wander aimlessly into destruction. You must heed his call, get into the fight, and become a missionary, not in deeds alone, but by preaching the Word of truth wherever you go. **When we truly know God we will surrender all we have for the sake of the call!**

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see today is that... **We Know God By Grasping His Holiness**. Let's start in **1 Timothy 2:5**. For there is one God. For those of us who have been in church our whole lives this may seem on the surface as though it needs no additional comments. God is one. But for those who are lost this is a very loaded statement which needs to be picked apart. And for those of us who are believers, unless we understand the enormity of all that is involved in the oneness of God,

we will be ill motivated to obey his calling. So let's unpack this.

There is one God means that there is exactly only one God in all of the universe. This smacked of arrogance, and blasphemy in the Roman and Greek cultures of Paul's time. The Greeks and the Romans, much like the Egyptians and the Canaanites, the Assyrians and the Babylonians, all believed in a plurality of gods. They believed there was a god of the river, another god of the oceans, another god of the rain, another god of the sun, another god of fire, another god of the earth, another god of the harvests, another god of fertility, another god of the animals, etc... You get the point. To say that there was one God of all, was so alien to them that it was an assault on the core of their beliefs. If you were to look for a modern day polytheistic religion like those of old, you need to look no further than Hinduism. A religion that dominates the Indian sub-continent and has over 1 Billion adherents. In 2001 at the age of 20 I stood in the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh, India, and preached to over 100 Hindu people that there was only 1 God. As I said these words you could see that the people were getting irritated and angry with me. Some appeared to start to pick up rocks to throw at me. I was immediately escorted back to our bus to avoid a conflict. When we say that God is one, we are saying that He is Holy! Holy simply means set apart. **There is nothing or no one remotely like our God. He has no equal, he has no contender. He is the ultimate authority and that will never change.** You can join Him or you can be destroyed through your rejection of Him, it is as simple as that.

We have similar statements throughout the Bible describing God as one. **Deuteronomy 6:4, Mark 12:29, 1 Corinthians 8:4**. When we hear statements that God is One it also means that he is uniquely triune. God has three distinct persons, all in collaboration with one another, all sharing the same qualities as one another, yet somehow functioning as individuals. There is no other god like this, nor any other system by which we can compare this. This is completely different than anything. **We can say he's like an egg with a shell, white part, and yolk but God isn't different parts of the same object, with wholly different qualities. We can say he is like water being vapor, ice, and liquid, but God isn't taking on different forms at different times. The father, son, and holy spirit all exist in their forms at all times.** There truly is nothing like our God. To believe in the trinity is to know our God.

In his holiness our God is supreme, unique, triune, omniscient (knowing all things), omnipresent (being in all places), omnipotent (all powerful), immutable (never changing), sovereign, majestic, ancient, otherworldly. Therefore it should come as no surprise to us that nothing exists without Him. **John 1:3** tells us that "all things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made." He is the creator of the universe, the world, and us. We did not come from evolution. We are not a cosmic accident without purpose or plan. We were designed, as were

all things, with a purpose and a plan. **Psalm 139:13-14** tells us; “for you formed my inward parts: you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it ver well. The point being, when we know God and his holiness we will be fully motivated to partake in his mission. Do you know our God like this? **When we truly know God we will surrender all we have for the sake of the call.**

Secondly, **We Know God Through A Relationship With His Son.** Let's look again at **1 Timothy 2:5-6**. We must not only know who God is as whole, but we must know his son intimately. In fact, we cannot know God without having a relationship with His Son. This is also unique to Christianity and a sore spot with the rest of the world. Even though Christianity came from Judiasim, the Jewish religion is now fully at odds with Christianity. To them, we are a cult, because they do not accept Jesus as the messiah. They do not need Jesus to have a relationship with God. They find their relationship with him through their law. We find a relationship with God through Jesus because we have been saved through grace from the law. We are not bound to it in the way we once were. We don't need to choose the law in order to choose God. Now, we choose Christ and God and then because of our love for Him we choose to obey.

Who is Jesus. He is the mediator between God and man. He is our bridge. He is the one who represents us before God. The simplest way to put this is that we are sinners. Even though we are saved we still carry the sin of our flesh in our mortal bodies. God cannot accept us in our sin. He can only accept a sacrifice on behalf of our sin. Jesus has become that sacrifice by becoming a ransom for us all. He paid our debt. **Jesus stands before God, promoting us to God and restoring our relationship with Him. You cannot stand before God without Christ.** You cannot have a relationship with God without Christ. We call this justification. You are still guilty of sin, but because of the blood of Christ covering your sin, God looks upon you as sinless. In laymans terms, you only can know God now, by knowing His son. As our mediator, Jesus loves us, cares for us, prays for us, promotes us. He has sent his Spirt to live in us and comfort us, convict us, and empower us to live for Him. The more we fall in love with Christ the more we will desire to live for God.

How does one have a relationship with Christ and God? Surrender to the salvation of Christ. Spend time seeking him in his word and in prayer. Surround yourself with other believers to encourage you and keep you accountable. Saturate your life with Jesus at all times! Then you will be motivated to live for him according to his commands. Do you have a real relationship with Jesus right now? **When we truly**

know God we will surrender all we have for the sake of the call.

Which leads us to the third point, **We Obey God's Call When We Reach The Lost.** So what do we do when we truly know God and have a relationship with His son Jesus? We obey Him! We obey the call. What is that call? It is the same as Paul's. Look again at **1 Timothy 5:7**. Paul was called to take the Gospel to the unreached Gentiles. I know it seems that we talk about this a lot, but it is the truth. You can adhere to it or you can continue to ignore it. You are here for no other reason than to reach the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8, Mark 16:15-16, Matthew 5:16, Romans 1:16.**

If you are unwilling to reach the lost then stop coming to church. If you are unwilling to reach the lost stop playing religion. If you are unwilling to tell your neighbors of the salvation you have received; if you are unwilling to tell you co-workers about Jesus; if you are so lethargic that you can't even invite people to church or simply commit to reaching one person or praying for your neighbors through bless every home, then what are you doing with your life? **James 2:14-17**. Faith without works is dead! Is your faith dead? If not, what are you doing to reach the lost? **When we truly know God we will surrender all we have for the sake of the call.**

Lastly, **We Obey God's Call When We Preach The Truth.** Look again at **1 Timothy 5:7**. How do we reach the lost? We preach the true Gospel of faith in Christ. Yes we must live godly lives and care and love for the lost as to reach them. But at somepoint, it takes words. At some point it takes God's words. These words are uncomfortable and contentious to a world that has rejected truth. You must speak them anyway. **You must teach and preach the truth as to convict sinners of their sin and turn to the only salvation in Christ.** You must present them with their options. If they reject Christ, so be it. But they must have the choice.

What do we preach? Look at **1 Timothy 3:16** as it pertains to Christ. We preach the mystery of godliness. That true godliness is found only in this truth...that Jesus is God but was manifested in the flesh as a human. He was 100% God and 100% man. He was tempted and tried in everyway as to sympathize with us and so we could be assured that He has stood in our shoes. That Jesus died on the cross as the atoning ransom for all mankind. By his stripes we are healed of sin. That he was resurrected on the third day defeating sin, death, and the grave. This was the vindication and proof that he was who he said he was and that he could do what he said he would do. The resurrection is proof that everythign we know about God is real and that you can place your faith in the salvation of Christ. His life gives you new life. That he ascended back into heaven where he was seen by the angels and now sits on the right hand of God interceding on our behalf.

And yes, many have already believed in him, yet he didnt' die to save

many. He died to save everyone. He patiently waits for all to be saved. So it is our mission to preach this to the remaining 3 billion who haven't heard. It is our job to go to the 4 billion without a church or missionary. It is our calling to reach the lost and preach the Gospel to the ends of the world! If you knew God and His Son you would do this without hesitation. So do you know his son? If so, what is keeping you from preaching the truth of the Gospel? **When we truly know God we will surrender all we have for the sake of the call.**

Application

So let's get real. I truly believe that if you are not fulfilling the calling of God to reach the lost and preach the Good news, that you don't really know God and his Son. If we knew how great God was and the depth of his holiness. How far, how deep, how wide the majesty of God was. Then we would be enlightened to the point where we felt we had no other option but to surrender our lives to his calling. If we knew the love of Christ and what it truly took for him to hang on that cross for our sins. Then we would be enlightened to the point where we could see ourselves living no other life than one surrendered to the call to reach the lost and preach the word. In all reality, we just don't get it. We have not been overwhelmed by his holiness or his salvation. We think we believe it but that belief has not motivated us nor convicted us to be obedient. Why not? **When we truly know God we will surrender all we have for the sake of the call.**

Conclusion

Today is a day of repentance. We must repent of our lack of understanding of who He is. We must repent of our lack of intimacy with His Son. We must repent of our lack of reaching the lost. We must repent of our lack of preaching the Gospel. Perhaps there is still time to get back on track and answer the call. Today is a day of commitment. Will you commit to the call of God to reach the lost by preaching the Gospel? **When we truly know God we will surrender all we have for the sake of the call**