

# The Epistles to Timothy

## Part 1

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*Note: This text is a computer generated transcript of the sermon. In some cases it may contain errors.*

[00:00:00] 1 Timothy chapter 2 and verse 5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man named Jesus.

Now chapter 3 and verse 15 But if I tell you long, that thou mayst know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Now in chapter 2 and verse 13 For Adam was first born, then Eve.

[00:01:08] And lastly in chapter 1 verses 1 and 2 All an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ which is our hope.

Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith, grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

In a few moments we will show how there is a connection between these scriptures that we read. The simple exercise that we desire to follow is in 1 Timothy with the objective view that we might understand something of the blessedness of belonging to God and also the responsibility that such a position incurs.

[00:02:09] I thought first of all this evening we might have a little talk as the Spirit helps us to bring before us something of the greatness and glory of the God who dwells in his house. It's interesting to know that Paul wrote to Timothy so that he might go to Ephesus and there hinder those who were teaching false doctrines.

I think throughout this epistle we get many indications of the truths that Paul spoke to the Ephesians or that he wrote to concerning great truths.

The wonderful unfolding of divine purpose and blessing in Christ and we find him I believe embodied in a simple way in this first epistle. [00:03:01] But he doesn't develop them. But I think in writing to Timothy to tell him to combat those false teachers he indicates the main outline of these wonderful truths. This is what we want to be involved in this evening. The greatness and glory of God that we might be impressed by and that we might be governed by. I think there are three things that we ought to look at to show how important this epistle is and how it should affect us in our lives. First of all chapter 3 and verse 15 which we have read together.

But if I carry along that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Now the apostle is deeply concerned that Timothy might know how to behave himself and of course every other believer to behave themselves in the house of God. [00:04:12] Now if you look at chapter 1 and verse 11 he speaks about the gospel of the blessed God, the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to his trust.

And he is warning Timothy against teaching which was contrary to that gospel and warning Timothy that this kind of thing had to be withstood.

The gospel of the glory of the blessed God. Any teaching that was contrary to that had to be refused.

Now chapter 6 and verse 1.

[00:05:03] Let as many servants as is under the yoke count their own master as worthy of all honour that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed. Now there is a very solemn statement that in the ordinary occupation of life, master and employer there is a possibility that the name of God might be blasphemed and his teaching blasphemed.

Now this brings Christianity right down to earth if you like and as we are occupied in the daily course of life it is possible that we might live in such a way that God, the name of God is blasphemed and his teaching blasphemed also. So now we have three very important statements in this epistle that Paul is showing to Timothy how serious it is to be a Christian. [00:06:06] I am not in any way going to water that statement down. It is a serious thing to be a Christian and to live in the light of it so that we might behave ourselves properly in the house of God. So that we might teach the proper things that nothing might be cracked from the gospel of the glory of the blessed God. And that the name of God should not be blasphemed by our foolish living. Now these are very very important and solemn statements. Now it seems to me that we shall never rise to this responsibility unless first of all we have a very definite understanding of who God is. I feel very inadequate to stand before you this evening to attempt to tell you how great God is. But I have read a few statements from this epistle to bring before you five different features of our great God and trust the Holy Spirit will impress upon us his greatness and his glory. [00:07:10] First of all there is one God.

Secondly he is the living God.

And although it is not very apparent in the verses I read in chapter 2 verse 13 where Adam was first born. The creative God because I believe this is what it presents. The creative God.

And then in two verses we read in chapter 1. Now this is a very comprehensive subject and we can only deal with it very briefly.

But first of all there is one God.

Now we know in the world at the present moment there are many Gods. There are many nations which are given over to idolatry. [00:08:03] So there are many Gods. But the Bible presents exclusively one God.

And all the other Gods that men have made in name are false Gods and not worthy to be mentioned in the same name or in the same light as our God. There is one God.

Now if we trace the history of man's departure from God. From the Garden of Eden. The fall there. Then Cain going out from the presence of God. The building of Babel.

From then on we realize how far away man got from God. And when he got away from God he created his own Gods. And so from that moment onward we find a multiplicity of Gods. And in the Prophets we find many allusions to this. Idols being made.

Trees cut down. And idols made and painted and formed.

And gold and silver. Idols being made.

[00:09:02] Men worshipping them.

The works of their hands. And over against this again and again is affirmed that only God is God. Indeed he affirms this so often himself. In the book of Isaiah.

I am God.

Beside me there is none else.

Indeed the great call in Deuteronomy. That God.

He was the one God.

The one Lord. And beside him there was none else. And you remember when the scribe came to the Lord Jesus. And asked him which were the great commandments. This is what the Lord quoted from Deuteronomy chapter 6. That God is one.

And to love him with all one's strength and mind and so on. Is the duty of everyone. And the scribe said yes this was perfectly correct. And of course it was bound to be correct. Because the author of Deuteronomy was speaking to him. And so this is a very important thing for our hearts to realise today. [00:10:05] A very sad thing to realise that idolatry is on the increase rather than the decrease. And if the further man gets away from God. Of course he has to recourse to other things. And Satan will find idols to occupy his attention. And although in this land we may not bow down to stocks and stones. And painted images and the like. Yet there are other forms that idolatry can take. And we always have to remember that covetousness is idolatry. And that is a moral feature that we want to avoid as much as possible. But throughout the New Testament it is affirmed again and again. There is one God.

Now dear brethren.

This is a very important thing for our hearts to take account. There is a God.

The epistle to the Hebrews reminds us. That those who follow him must believe that he is. [00:11:03] And that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him. So dear brethren. God is. A few years ago

there was a philosophy that God was dead. But he isn't dead.

God is.

He is very much alive.

And very much in control. Although man might not think so. God is one.

Now Paul says to the Corinthians.

There are Gods many.

And there are Lords many. But to us there is one God.

And that God is known to us as Father. We'll touch on that later on. You remember when Paul was in Athens. He was very much upset. Because wherever he turned he saw idolatry.

Idols in every corner.

Idols for every feature of life.

Indeed I don't think we fully realize how idolatry permeated the ancient world. [00:12:04] Gods for marriage. Gods for death.

Gods for war. Gods for business. Gods for everything.

And what a serious thing it was.

When a person became a Christian. To cut away from idolatry. And to stand by this wonderful truth. That there was one God. And there must be no worship of false gods. And so it was a very very great challenge. To turn away from those idols. As the Thessalonians did. To worship the only true God. And so dear brethren.

I believe it is very important. That this great truth.

Fixes itself in our hearts and minds. And takes possession of us. That there is one God.

To the exclusion of all other gods. There are no other gods. That can stand beside this God.

I like to think of that incident.

In the book of Samuel.

When the ark of God.

[00:13:02] Was captured by the Philistines. And they took the ark of God. And they placed it in the temple of David. The fish god. And in the morning. When they went into the temple. The fish god was lying in his face. It could not be thought for one moment. That the fish god.

Could find a place beside the ark of God. Well they propped the idol back on its pedestal. After all they had made it. So they could lift it up. So they propped it back up on its pedestal. And the next morning.

When they came in. It was shattered to pieces. That was the end of it. Now I think this incident shows us. That God will not have anything.

Placed alongside himself. He is exclusively God.

There is no other. And man might think.

There are other gods. He might claim there are other gods. Sad to say he worships other gods. But the New Testament says. There is one God.

[00:14:01] In Ephesians 4.

Paul says the same again. One God.

The father of all. And so on.

And so dear brethren. Let's get this firmly in our minds. I don't think there is anyone here. With dream of thinking anything else. That there is one God. But it's always important. To be reminded. That there is one God.

And only one God.

Now this second matter. The living God.

If there is one God.

What kind of God is he?

Does he just sit. Biasing.

And watching affairs of men go past. Without any concern about them?

Can't he intervene in the affairs of men?

Must he allow wicked men. To reap their will as they wish?

No. He is the living God. And he is very much concerned. About the way man thinks. And he is very much concerned. About the bringing to light of his own will and purpose. [00:15:02] And of course when he puts forth his hand. Who can stay? And I believe it's a wonderful thing. To get into our hearts. That this God. We know.

Is a living God.

And if you search carefully. In the New Testament.

You'll find many.

In the Old Testament. Many many references. To the living God.

Now it wasn't only a truth. It was a reality.

That those believers in those days. Put into practice.

And wonderful results go from.

I want to refer to one. And it's very well known to you. A subject so often spoken about. In the Sunday School. The battle between Goliath.

And David the young man.

Now when that young man. Went into the Valley of Elah. To face the champion of the Philistines. It looked a very unequal contest.

A seasoned warrior.

And a mighty one at that. [00:16:01] Indeed Saul.

Head and shoulders above his brethren. Wasn't very keen.

To tackle this giant of a man. And Saul.

Was a very strong. Courageous warrior.

He had proved himself. But he wouldn't go in and face Goliath. But the little lad did. And how did he go?

He went in the face of the living God. You remember what he said? This uncircumcised Philistine.

Who defies the armies of the living God.

You see the armies of Israel were actually nothing. If God wasn't with them. They had proved that.

You see if God is with his people. And his people are with God. Then everything is alright. But if the people of God are not walking in faith. And in dependence upon God. Then things will be all wrong.

And Israel had proved that over and over again. [00:17:01] And here was this young lad.

Going in to face this Philistine. In all the faith that he possessed. In the living God.

After all he had experienced help from him. In private.

When the bear and the lion attacked the clock. David in the strength that God gave him. Was able to save the clock. And now he went forth in confidence. That the living God would be with him. Because

it was God's battle that was being fought. Not the battle between Israel and the Philistines. There was the other occasion you remember. When the armies of the Assyrians besieged Jerusalem. And Hezekiah had a very small army. And he was very much afraid. Because he knew that he had no strength of his own. Nor was his army competent. To meet this threat to the city. But he went in to the presence of the living God. And he spread out the letter. That the Assyrian king had presented. [00:18:02] And he was able to win a remarkable victory.

Not by his strength.

But because of the power of the living God. Now you see the truth.

Had a practical bearing upon those people in their day.

And dear brethren there are many many references. To the living God in the New Testament. To show us that we too can experience the living God in our lives. And experience health and blessing. What is the use of truth or teaching.

If it doesn't have some impact upon our lives. And produce something for the glory of God.

We'll find some other night if the Lord will. That teaching forms a very important part.

Of the first epistle of Paul to Timothy. Now when we go to school. We're taught certain things. In view of the time.

[00:19:02] That we'll take up employment in some form or other. Or if we're going on to higher education. Our education is directed into certain channels. So that we're able to qualify for a degree or whatever.

Now this has in mind.

To help us in life.

In some calling or profession.

It surely would be folly. To spend a great deal of time in secular teaching. And then just to ignore it. It would be wasted time. And we would confess.

That we could have spent our time in a better way. Now this is exactly the same with divine teaching. It's not simply the amassing of a great deal of knowledge. However important it might be. It's that that teaching might govern our lives. Mold our lives.

And qualify us if you like. To take our part in testimony here. For God in this world.

And also to help us in response to him.

[00:20:03] Surely that is the real reason for teaching.

You remember when the Lord Jesus finished. His discourse to his disciples and others. On the mount

in Matthew 5, 6 and 7.

He said at the end. Now if anybody hears my teaching. And does it.

He's like a man who built his house upon a rock. And when the flood came. Against the house. The house stood fast.

You see the accepting of the teaching. And the teaching forming the life. Produces stability.

And when the stress and strain of temptation. Difficulty and pressure comes along. Then we're able to stand. If we're ill taught.

Well very often we'll succumb. To various pressures and trials. So if we know that God is the living God.

He's not dead. He's the living God.

He's very much interested in you. [00:21:01] Me. Every Christian. He's interested in us.

And he wants us to follow him. And to be formed by his teaching. We can take account of the resources. That he has supplied us with. And we can follow them. We can adopt them. We can appropriate them. And by so doing.

We're able to be here for his glory. And we're able to avoid. The things that we mentioned. Bad behavior.

Either in secular calling. Or in connection with ecclesiastical things. Or bad teaching.

In connection with the glory. And the blessings of God. So. The fact that God is a living God. Is a very important thing. For each one of us.

To take account of.

When we come to the New Testament. There are some very fine things said. About the living God.

You remember in Matthew 16.

When Jesus asked his disciples. What did people say about him?

[00:22:01] Who he was?

Peter said.

Thou art the Christ.

The son of the living God.

The son of the living God.



You remember in.

When Paul was writing to the Corinthians. In his second epistle.

Chapter 3.

He spoke about the writing that's going on. Upon our hearts. And that writing is being done. By the spirit.

Of the living God.

The verse that we read. In chapter 3.

Verse 15.

Speaks about the church. The church.

Of the living God.

So you see.

This is a very important form of teaching. In the New Testament.

It's not a dead God.

In the Old Testament.

We find God.

Can I say so reverently. Speaking with sarcasm.

Against the Gods of the nations. Why he says.

[00:23:01] You down a tree.

You form it.

You paint it.

And you carry it.

You have to carry it with you. Then he says.

I have carried you.

What a contrast in Gods. A God that has to be carried. And a God who with infinite power. We have the living God. The other Gods.

We cannot hear.

No good praying to them. They cannot see.

They cannot take account of the difficulties that we are in. They cannot move.

They cannot stretch out a hand. To help us in our difficulties. They are dead Gods.

But we have a living God. He hears.

He sees.

He knows.

He has the power to put at our disposal. So that we might be here. For his pleasure and glory. In the epistle to the Hebrews. I think I am right in saying. That four times God is referred to. [00:24:01] As the living God.

Yes dear brethren.

God is very much alive. I believe that we need to take account of this. More and more.

How upset we get.

When the little problems come along. And the large problems too. Our faith is trying.

And very often falters. And fails under the pressure. And we have to remember. That we have a living God. There were great pressures. In the apostolic period. And through all the centuries. Of the Christian testimony. Those pressures have remained. They still remain today. And without the living God. There would be no Christian testimony. Thank God for the son of the living God. Who is at his right hand. And the spirit of the living God. Who dwells in each one of us. And in this way.

We are well equipped.

To meet the stresses and strains. Of the Christian life.

And well equipped.

[00:25:01] To respond to God.

In the way that he requires of us. I told you brethren.

God is the living God.

Now we come to.

The creator God.

It says.

In verse 13.

Adam was first born.

We might have read.

Chapter 4.

Verse 3.

Where certain bad teachers. Say that we are not to marry. We are not to eat meats. And it says God created them. To be received with thanksgiving. Of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature.

Or every creation of God is good. And we refuse.

If it be received with thanksgiving. So here are two very definite references. To God.

As the creator.

In this epistle to Timothy. Adam. Was first born.

Now I don't know anything about. The theory of evolution. [00:26:01] And I don't intend to waste my time. To inquire about it.

But I know.

That it's a very evil form of teaching. That is presented in various ways today. And it is a direct contradiction. To the many statements. In the word of God.

God created man.

He didn't evolve.

The universe as we know it. Came from the hands of God. If that isn't true.

Then there are many large. Portions in our Bibles. That we will need to cut out. And dispense with.

Throughout the Old Testament. Two references to this. The creation.

The creator.

God. Infinite in power and wisdom. And might.

Brought the worlds into being. Why? Does evolution present any reason. For this universe as it now exists? Not a single reason.

It cannot give one.

[00:27:01] But the Bible gives us a reason. Why God created the universe. To be a platform.

For the unfolding.

Of his eternal purpose. Before ever time began. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Dwell together in oneness. In conditions of glory and love. That are infinitely beyond. Our poor minds to understand. Dwelling there.

They form the eternal purpose. That was to be.

Unfolded by Christ the Son. He coming into this world. To die and rise from amongst the dead. And go back to glory.

So that God might have the opportunity. To bring into effect.

Those wonderful purposes. Of glory and love.

And it was necessary.

To bring into being.

A platform that this kind of thing. Might be demonstrated to all. And that is the reason. Why God created the universe. And this little speck of dust that they call. That they refer to.

[00:28:01] However small and insignificant it might be. In the eyes of the astronomers. Or the scientists.

Is the one important place. In the universe of God. Because on it.

The Son of God lived and died. And accomplished the work of redemption. And upon it.

There is the unfolding. Of God's eternal purpose. On it God has displayed his love. His mercy, his truth.

God has been manifested in flesh. And they can go to Mars. Or Jupiter or Saturn.

Or any other place they like in the universe. They will find nothing to compare. To what has been brought out. Upon this little speck of dust. How we thank God for it. God made the worlds.

This is what Hebrews 1 tells us. He made them by the Son. All things were created. For his pleasure.

All things were brought into being. By divine wisdom.

By weight and measure.

And thank God we see it. [00:29:01] As the Bible says it was born. And it continues.

Thank God for that.

But then has the knowledge. Of the Creator God.

Any place in Christian testimony. Is there any way.

That we can use this knowledge. That God is the Creator. Is it only to refute.

These evil teachings.

Concerning evolution.

I would say when we look into. The acts of the apostles. We find that the apostles themselves. Use this truth with very great effect. You remember in chapter 4. When the leaders of the Jews. Were doing their utmost. To stifle the Christian faith. In its infancy.

They went together.

Into the prayer meeting. And they prayed aloud to God. And this is how they appealed to him. That God.

The God.

Who made the heavens and the earth. And the seas and all that's in there. All that's therein.

[00:30:01] They cried aloud to God. As the Creator.

Why? Because the God who created. Was possessed with power. And wisdom.

And might.

That man could never possess. And that power and wisdom. Could be exerted on their behalf. To help them in their Christian testimony. And of course God answers the prayer. A God who can bring a universe. Like this into being.

Is a God who can deal.

With the power of puny man. However great he might think himself to be. This God.

Can do wonderful things. And of course when we look into the Old Testament. We find this power exerted. In many many ways.

The Red Sea and in Egypt. The destruction of Jericho. And in many other passages. God and his power.

Dealt with creation.

When we come to the Lord Jesus. We see the Creator made flesh. What do we find?

He's with the wild beasts in the desert. [00:31:01] Not afraid of them.

They don't make any effort to attack him. They're in the presence of the Creator. And they're quiet and they're peaceful. He gets a coat to come. A coat upon which man never sat. That means it wasn't broken in. A wild coat.

He sits upon it. It's quite peaceful. He can quieten the waves. He can tell them where to go to catch fish. The Creator.

Was there in the midst. Divine power and wisdom. Know how humble he was. He allowed himself to be taken. By a puny wicked man.

And nailed to a tree.

And he died on a cross. What humility.

What kindness. What love. We find on a few other occasions. In the Acts of the Apostles. God is referred to as Creator. Paul refers to him.

In Acts chapter 17.

When he was speaking to the Greek philosophers. He spoke about the God. Who created.

The God who made men of one blood. [00:32:01] And so on.

Quite interesting to know. Evolution began with the Greek philosophers. Very very crude form.

Charles Darwin of course. He polished it up.

Made it feel very intellectual. Made it appear very true. And reasonable.

But it existed a long long time. Before Charles Darwin got it forward. So Paul.

He spoke to those philosophers. And he told them.

That God was the creator. Of the heavens and the earth. And of course he was bringing forward God. In his power and greatness. And glory.

In the portion you remember. Where people thought.

That Barnabas and Paul. Were Gods who had come down. And they went to worship them. They said oh no.

We are just mortals like ourselves. Oh no.

God is the one who is to be worshipped. God who created the earth and the heavens. [00:33:01] Is the one who wants you to turn away. From vanity and serve him. So you see.

The knowledge of God as creator. Can be very useful.

In Christian testimony. Oh think of what it brings before us. His power.

His greatness.

And he has not in any way given up. That right to rule and guide and control. Indeed.

If for one moment he gave up. His right to control the universe physically. Then the whole thing would go wrong. It would be absolute chaos. Because the Lord Jesus. In Colossians 1.

Is the one who upholds all things. By the word of his power. Now this is the kind of God. Who dwells in the midst of his people. The one.

Exclusive God.

The living God.

The creator God.

This gives us some idea. Of his majesty and glory. But dear brethren.

If we only knew God in this way. [00:34:01] I think we would still feel. That he was very far off from us. That he wasn't near to us. That he was a God who.

Bows us down before him. In awe.

In the sense of his greatness and glory and majesty. But we wouldn't feel very near to him. I suppose we would all feel. Something.

Like Job.

You remember in the last chapters of Job. How God came before him. And presented himself.

As the one who created. And Job he abhorred himself. He was cast in ashes.

And confessed what a great sinner he was. Thank God.

Our God is a saviour God. And when we know him in this way. And as we shall see I hope in a few moments. That he's our father.

We get a wonderful sense. Of how our God thinks about us. And how he wants us to respond to him. God. A saviour God.

Well this is all true.

In the New Testament also. [00:35:01] God was a saviour God then. The many references to salvation. Is a reminder to us.

That God is a saviour God. But the greatest.

Expression of God.

As a saviour God.

Is when we come to the New Testament. There we find salvation. In it's greatest possible expression. And that is all.

The coming of God the son. Into this world.

To accomplish the work of redemption. On the cross.

I also said.

When we were speaking about. The one God.

That in the light of the revelation of that one God. In the New Testament.

We now know.

That that God.

Consists of three persons. God the son.

God the father.

God the son.

And God the spirit.

Not three Gods.

This is where human language fails us. Where human logic fails us. [00:36:01] And we have to go extremely careful. Because we might say something wrong. But this is what the New Testament. Presents to us.

God the father.

We can explain that clearly. By quoting scripture.

To us there is one God. The father.

God the son.

We say in Hebrews 1.

Unto the son he said.



God the spirit I believe. Hebrews 9.

Who through the eternal spirit. Only God is eternal.

In the sense.

That he ever existed.

Having no beginning.

Or no end.

So the eternal spirit.

The verse in Hebrews 9. Would give us ample right to say. God the Holy Spirit.

Not three Gods.

Three persons presented to us. Father, Son and Holy Spirit. One God.

One substance.

One will.

[00:37:01] One purpose.

Never divergent.

Always working together. In complete harmony.

So we find God the son. Came into this world.

In order to accomplish the work of redemption. Oh how God yearned.

For his creature to be near to himself. And oh how the barrier of sin. Prevented him I say reverently.  
From giving his full and qualified love. To his creature.

Sin. That awful thing.

That came in at the fall with Adam. And has existed ever since. God had devised means.

Whereby his marriage.

Could be brought back to him. And the son of God.

Died on the cross.

Accomplished the work of redemption. After appearing to his own for a short period. Went back to

glory.

The Holy Spirit was sent down. And on the day of Pentecost. The servants of God were empowered. In a remarkable way.

To begin the testimony. [00:38:01] Of the Gospel period.

When the good news went out. To all in Sunday.

That God was a Saviour God. And again and again and again. We find this expression. In the New Testament.

God our Saviour.

This is what we find in chapter 2. For there is one God.

And one mediator.

Between God and men.

The man Christ Jesus.

Who gave himself a ransom for all. To be testified in due time. And it was preceded by the statement. That prayers are good and acceptable. In the sight of God.

Our Saviour.

Dear friends.

If we had all got.

What we deserve to get. If not one of us here this evening. Would know anything of God. Our Saviour.

How thankful we should be. That our sins are forgiven. Sin is an awful thing.

In the sight of God.

It's an affront to his majesty. [00:39:01] And glory and dignity.

And he hates it.

In all the hatred of his being. And that hatred was expressed. If I could so say.

When the Lord Jesus Christ. The Son of God hung upon the tree. And in the darkness.

And in the abandonment. Experienced the wrath of God. That was due to us.

When he was made a sacrifice. For sin.

I'm afraid I can't speak adequately. Of those moments of darkness and horror. That the Lord Jesus experienced. When God our Saviour.

Was dealing with the question of sin. In his own beloved son. The spotless and holy one. There it was.

The work of redemption was accomplished. And then the good news went out. That God was a Saviour God. It's quite interesting to know. That in the epistle to Titus. Three times God is referred to. As a Saviour God.

And our Lord Jesus Christ. [00:40:01] Is referred to as Saviour. And in one place.

He's not only referred to as Saviour. But as God.

It's a glorious appearing. Of the great God and our Saviour. Jesus Christ.

So there we find an assertion. Of the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is Saviour.

He is God.

And God is God our Saviour. Wonderful assertion.

Of the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ. But again.

Dear friends.

Let us consider for one moment. What a wonderful thing it is to be saved. What a glorious thing it is to be saved. We might have been going on this evening. Without any thought.

Of our soul salvation.

We might have been going on. Carelessly.

As millions are doing this evening. But God according to his eternal purpose. Had thoughts and designs for us. And in the time of responsibility. He appealed to us.

He called us.

[00:41:01] By his glad tidings.

That we might be brought to himself. That we might be stones in this building. In which he is dwelling. We form the house of God. His dwelling place.

But God cannot dwell.

Amongst corruption and evil. God dwells in the midst of holiness. And so the people.

Who build, who make his house. The people who compose his house. Are persons who are cleansed. Pure. Their sins are gone.

There is nothing obnoxious in them. But according to the work of Christ. They are all formed.

According to his will and purpose. And in that company.

God dwells.

That is his place.

And thank God for that. God doesn't dwell in temples. Made with hands.

Says the new testament. He did in the tabernacle and temple systems. But then they all.

They proved themselves ineffective. Not because there was anything wrong with them. [00:42:01] But because of the people who were connected with them. The priesthood failed.

The nation failed.

And consequently the whole system failed. But now God.

Is dwelling in the midst of people. Not in stones and lime. And that kind of thing. I am sure I don't need to say this. In a company like this. That the house of God today. Is not a building.

A material building.

The house of God is a spiritual building. God dwells in this building. Where spiritual sacrifices are offered up. By spiritual people.

Priests.

All believers.

Priests.

Not a select company.

But those who are constituted priests. To respond to God in worship. And in praise.

So you see the importance. Of understanding God.

As a savior God.

Because now we realize. That we are the persons. Who form the house of God. [00:43:01] Where God dwells.

And where he wants a correct behavior. For those who form his dwelling. What a wonderful thing it is

then to realize. That such a great and glorious God. The one God.

The living God.

The creator God.

Deigns to dwell with persons like ourselves. But you see he's not looking at us. In all our frailties.

Or the way it is in all our weaknesses. He's looking at us.

As we have been formed. According to his mind.

Because of the death of Christ. And the work of the Holy Spirit. We must keep this in mind. Now we come to the last thing. God our father.

Now that's the greatest. And cruelest.

And deepest.

And best.

When God is our father. We possess not only for time. But throughout all eternity. In Ephesians chapter 1. We read about God.

[00:44:01] His eternal purpose.

And this is that we might be. His sons by adoption.

So that we can be for his pleasure. Throughout all eternity. This is the greatest.

And most glorious blessing. That we can possess.

We are the sons of God. Now to know God is our father. Is our father.

Is a very wonderful thing. We might have to lose.

Because of their faithfulness to God. So God says.

Now you'll be my sons.

And my daughters.

Says the Lord God almighty. That is all my resource. Will be at your disposal. If you are faithful.

And you are involved in loss. I'll look after you.

The other nine occasions. We can understand this. Because it's a conflict. Between good and evil.

And there's no doubt.

About the outcome of that conflict. Almighty God will see to it. [00:45:01] That every opposing power. Is put down.

We might well tremble.

As we look abroad today. And see the mighty powers of evil. That seem to be carrying everything. In front of them.

And we might say well.

And we say.

When God.

Puts forth his hand.

Then all this.

Will come to an end.

There is one.

Who in the power of his might. Will deal with all the evil. We read about this.

In Revelation chapter 19. When the son of the Lord. Goes forth in conquering power. Upon the white horse.

He puts down all evil.

And deals with it.

Nine times in the book of Revelation. We find Almighty God.

Now we come to the name Father. How often is that mentioned? Over 260 times.

In the New Testament.

What does that convey to us? [00:46:01] What should be most upon our lips? Almighty God.

Or Father.

What is the characteristic name of God. In the New Testament?

Surely Father.

And yet I think it would be right to say. That generally speaking. I'm not referring to those instructed in

the truth. But generally speaking. God is referred to as the Almighty God. And yet the New Testament. Refers to him so often as the Father. 260 times more.

So dear brethren.

This is to show to us.

How we have to think of God. As our Father.

In a normal family.

Children love their father. They have no fear of their father. They respect their father. They know that their father provides for them. But there is something more than that. They have the nature of their father. And there is a kinship there. An affinity that provides love and nearness. And happiness in the home. I'm speaking about normal families. Now when we think of this in connection. [00:47:01] With the divine family. How much more this is.

Oh what a wonderful God he is. An affinity yes.

We have a new nature.

We have a divine nature. And because we are sons. God has sent the spirit of his son. Into our hearts.

And this enables us to speak to God. As Father.

His sons.

We refer to him as our Father. And we know the care he has for us. We know the love he has for us. We know the purpose that he has for us. We know the resources that he has for us. So you see.

It's a wonderful thing to know God. As Father.

But we only know it.

Because we are in association with his beloved son. We couldn't understand God as Father. Apart from the son.

We couldn't know God.

Apart from the revelation. That has come out in the son. He has made known the Father. He has declared and revealed God. And so dear brethren.

[00:48:01] If we understand these things. And if we appropriate them. And if we appropriate them in any measure in our lives. It's going to help us tremendously. When we come to the practical details. That Paul presents in 1 Timothy. Because he has some very very solemn. And challenging things to say to us. But if we try and work up to God. By performing the responsibilities. We'll be at the wrong end. We first of all.

Have to get some impression. Of the greatness of God. And of his love for us. And of his love for us. And of the greatness of God. And who he is.

And what he is towards us. And once we know that in our souls. We are well on the way. To performing the things that he wants us to do. And surely.

If we realize something. Of the blessedness of belonging to God. And that he is our Father. And also to know that he has. Infinite resources.

For our blessing and help. Then we'll take courage. [00:49:01] And find a challenge.

Of these solemn injunctions. That God gives.

Through his servant Paul. To Timothy and to us.

So I trust dear brethren. That something has been said. And something that the Spirit will use. To impress upon us.

The greatness of our God. Tomorrow night.

I thought we might have a Bible reading. On the assembly.

Because that's mentioned I think. In this epistle.

And it might be that.

We should have some proper idea in our minds. As to what the assembly is. Either universally or locally. And if we understand that too. We'll understand something. Of the wonderful blessing it is. To be called out of this world. To be for God.

So tomorrow night.

If the Lord will.

We'll have a Bible reading on the assembly. As it's presented in this epistle. Thank you.