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*God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.*

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## Salvation In 1 Timothy 1. (2013)

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The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises  
But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

***Teach it, don't demand it.***

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## Salvation in 1 Timothy 1.

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**Introduction;** since the primary focus of this study is upon Scriptures (in most chapters in Timothy One) that relate to salvation and are relevant to eternal life there are far too many different topics and titles to make a topics list, but I have faith that most who travel through each chapter will by the time they arrive at the end not only be enriched in their knowledge of salvation, but also enriched in God's love and God's grace in Christ.

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### 1 Timothy 1

#### God our Saviour and Christ Jesus our Hope.

1 Timothy 1:1 ----- <sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our saviour and of Christ Jesus our hope.

God the Father is the saviour in the sense that he planned and purposed in his eternal mind that salvation would be in his Son from the foundation of the world and Christ is the hope and the saviour in that he is the one God the Father's plan of salvation works through so in this sense both God the Father and Christ the Son are the saviour of mankind. The hope spoken of is not called hope because it might or might not happen it is called hope because it is unseen and yet to happen but the hope itself is guaranteed to come to pass because it is based on God's promise and he cannot lie. Paul wrote, "In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began (Titus 1:2).

The Christian hopes to be resurrected from the grave to be raised up to eternal life and everlasting glory to be made perfectly free from sin; to be everlastingly happy, but it is faith that gives these things a mental reality in the mind and it is under this influence of faith that those in Christ allow these unseen and yet future events to control their mind as if they were a reality now.

**Faith and hope:** the difference between faith and hope is that by faith alone we are sure of eternal salvation it is certain and guaranteed by faith whereas by hope we look forward with confidence that we will be raised to eternal life. All Christian hope stands on faith since it is faith that secures and guarantees the promise of God. In this way faith and hope go together they are partners that complement each other since the same things that are the focus of our hope are the same things that our faith is trusting in. Faith secures while hope looks forward to what is secured by faith. A person who is full of faith is a person who has examined the evidence and is fully convinced that what they have examined proves itself to be true. The pillars of faith are conviction, assurance and confidence without these three there is no faith.

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#### Myths and Endless Genealogies.

1 Timothy 1:4-5 ----- <sup>4</sup>nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. <sup>5</sup>The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

**Myths:** carry the idea of tuition that is a fiction, a tale or a fable. Though it may be interesting to study and work out genealogies especially of the great prophets it should always be kept in mind that knowing them and other similar things has no importance in regards to being saved to eternal life and should never become topics of dispute, division or argument since knowing them counts for nothing before God in regards to eternal life and what pleases God's eternal heart.

Another great principal we learn from what Paul is saying in these verses is to mentally ask ourselves the question, "Is this discussion important to being saved to eternal life or simply man's reasoning and speculations. No-one has to be walking Bible encyclopaedia to be saved to eternal life since God in his eternal wisdom has

made salvation very simple by placing all the promises of eternal life in his Son. The Good News of the Gospel states, whoever has Christ not only becomes a brother and sister of the Lord but an adopted child of God and as in any natural family they become an heir of all God's promises to Abraham and heir to eternal life.

**I come in the volume of the book:** Jesus himself said to religious Jews who believed in God, read the Old Testament Scriptures daily and held fast to adhering to every ceremonial rites, holy days and religious custom and tradition: -

- You do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life (John 5:38-40).

These verses clearly show that the purpose of the Scriptures is to bring us to Christ. David in prayer and in faith echoing Christ wrote: -

- Blessed are those who put their trust in the LORD and make the Lord (the Christ) their trust (Psalm 40:3-4).

Then speaking of himself, but echoing Christ says: -

- Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me (Psalm 40:7).

And concludes his prayer with: -

- You are my help and my deliverer do not delay, O my God! (Psalm 40:17)

This prayer of David's shines a spotlight on the truth that the security David had for his salvation to eternal life was not in doctrine, but in his daily and faithful relationship to God the Father and the coming promised seed of Abraham, Israel's Messiah the Christ. Here is the glory, thousands of years later the author of Hebrews in his letter cites the words of David: -

- Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book" (Heb. 10:7).

He is citing these words to prove to the unbelieving Jews the following two things: -

1. Salvation to eternal life is not in intellectual knowledge of the Scripture, but in a devoted living and faithful relationship with the Father and with His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. The purpose of all Scripture is to deliver a sinner from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of light by bringing them into this fellowship with Christ and with his heavenly Father (Col. 1:13).

When we all stand before the Lord's judgment seat Christ will not sit us down to do a written doctrinal exam, but he will examine our lives to see if our religious actions stemmed from a devoted and loving heart toward him and his Father or from selfish ambition, ego and pride and measure us against Jesus command and the royal law, love your neighbour as yourself (Matt. 22:37-40) (Mark 12:28-31) (James 2:8) (i.e., did we treat others with love, kindness, compassion, grace, mercy and forgiveness especially our brothers and sisters in Christ or use them for our own gain etc.).

**NOTE:** this does not mean that studying the Scriptures is of no value, quite the contrary, since the more we understand the Bible the stronger our faith and our hope grows and the more we learn of the nature, character will and the heart of the one we love. To give a simple example: a young man may meet a girl that he is attracted to, so he takes her out on a few dates and finds she has a pleasant personality and caring nature, now, he knows this girl, no-one can say anything against her that he would believe because he knows her good nature and her good character, but if he never takes her for another date, it won't be long before that relationship will dissipate and other things will take its place.

Likewise it is with the Scriptures they are our date with Christ and through them we gain eternal and heavenly insights into treasures of God that change our lives and touch our hearts in a manner that nothing in this world can.

**A pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith:** Paul's words, the aim of every brother and sister in Christ should be love that issues from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith (v5) show that what God values above intellectual head knowledge is love, integrity and sincere faith in contrasted to dogma, legalism, hypocrisy and pretence.

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### **God's Glorious Mercy and Grace.**

1 Timothy 1:13-14 ---- <sup>13</sup>formerly I (Paul) was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief <sup>14</sup>and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

These verses shows how vast the grace and mercy of God is. Prior to Paul's conversion he ravaged the church and breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, he aggressively set about assaulting and abusing whoever believed in the Lord violently doing whatever he could to destroy and break up the church. He entered synagogues and house after house dragging men and women out and committed them to prison to be punished and even put to death.

(Acts 9:1-2) (Acts 8:3) (Acts 22:4-5) (Acts 26:10-11) (Gal 1:13-14).

This is exactly what Paul was doing until the Lord miraculously turned his life around.

**NOTE:** it was not that Paul was motivated by jealousy, pride and selfish ambition as many of the Jews were or from an evil heart. Rather Paul's motivation was from his zeal for God and what he believed was the right way to protect the religious laws of Moses and the faith of the Nation of Israel. Paul had been taught by Gamaliel (a Pharisee and eminent doctor of the law) in the strictest laws of Moses (Acts 22:3) and was therefore so legalistic that he believed those who were confessing Christ were blasphemers to the laws and customs God had given to Moses and to the Covenant the LORD had establish with Israel.

This shines a spotlight on the power and horror of wrong belief especially when it is infused with a zeal for God and a legalistic heart that lacks, mercy, grace and compassion which in Paul's case had been generated by attending a religious school that gave him a wrong understanding of God, His laws and what is important to God's heart (i.e., love, compassion, grace and mercy etc.).

**The worst sinner of all:** throughout my Christian years I have heard people state that they are the worst of all sinners and therefore believe God could not forgive them or save them, all anyone thinking this way has to do is look at the life of Paul prior to his conversion and ask themselves the following question, "Have I broken up Christian families and put innocent men and women into prison and agreed as Paul did, to them being put to death simply because they were devoted to Christ? And then look at what God was able to do with Paul's life.

But there is another great lesson we can learn from Paul's life, it is obvious Paul was fully conscious of the hurt and harm he had done to brothers and sisters in Christ prior to his conversion, but he did not allow the horrors of it to rob his mind from the peace and love of Christ nor hinder him in any way from proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel. The following encouraging words of Paul show us all how he and by extension how we all should all overcome the mental horrors of our past life, Paul wrote the following beautiful words that should be of tremendous comfort to all who believe in Christ: -

- I do not consider that I am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own, the one thing I do is to forget what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Philip. 3:12-14).

## **Christ Jesus came into the World to Save Sinners.**

1 Timothy 1:15-16 ----- <sup>15</sup>The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup>But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

These verses show us two things: -

1. Paul was fully aware of his horrific sins.
2. No-matter how horrific our pasts may have been God's grace in the Lord Jesus Christ is far greater and fully able to completely wash a humble and repentant sinner so clean that they can walk before God as white as snow.

The words, for this reason, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life means that if Christ can forgive Paul's horrific and brutal deeds and shower him with such great love and grace no-one should ever think that because of their past they are beyond the grace and love of Christ and beyond knowing Christ's love in the same deep way that Paul did.

## **To the King of Ages, Immortal, Invisible, the Only God.**

1 Timothy 1:17 ----- <sup>17</sup>To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Some Bible teachers use this verse to support the mistaken theory that Jesus the Son is actually God the Father, but that is not what Paul is saying, we know this for three reasons: -

1. Jesus was not the King of all ages (he came through the Virgin Mary).
2. Jesus was not immortal (he died).
3. Jesus was not invisible (everyone saw him).

In this verse Paul is praising God the Father for his glorious plan of salvation that he planned and purposed in his eternal mind before the world began. It is for God's overwhelming grace and mercy that came to Paul and by extension to every brother and sister in Christ through their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that Paul is praising his heavenly Father for. The following verses show that God the Father is the immortal, invisible King of all ages: -

- The LORD (Y<sup>e</sup>hovah) the LORD sits enthroned as King forever (Psalm 29:10).
- You are my King, O God; ordain salvation for Jacob! (Psalm 44:4).
- For the LORD (Y<sup>e</sup>hovah) the Most High, is a great King over the earth (Psalm 47:2).
- Sing praises to God, sing praises to our King sing praises! (Psalm 47:6).
- God my King is from of old, working salvation in the earth (Psalm 71:12).
- The LORD (Y<sup>e</sup>hovah) our King to the Holy One of Israel (Psalm 89:18).
- I (David) will extol you, my God and King (Psalm 145:1).
- They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!" (Rev. 15:3) (See also the list following) (1 Tim. 6:15-16) (below).

These verses shine a brilliant spotlight that God the Father is the immortal, invisible King of all ages while Christ is God's anointed and foreordained King of the age we live in and the eternal age to come since he is the fulfilment of God's eternal plan of

salvation that God planned and purposed in His eternal mind before the foundations of the world. Since the teaching that Jesus is God has such a strong hold on much of traditional Christianity the following will encourage and comfort faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe in some doubt and unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son. The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states: -

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim: -

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life. Jesus himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

**For further information see the title: -**

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity) in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## 1 Timothy 2

### One Mediator between God and Men.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 ----- <sup>5</sup>For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

These verses shine a brilliant floodlight on the fact that no one needs a religious building, a priest, or anything else to be in communion with God and saved to eternal life. God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ said, "Whoever comes to me I will never cast out" (John 6:37) these comforting words of Jesus highlight the truth that he is the royal and golden path we need to follow to have a right standing before God and the only high priest any man or woman needs to have to be in union with God and saved to eternal life.

**Christ who gave Himself as a ransom for all:** Christ who gave himself as a ransom for all (v6) is not only the most perfect example of love, but also the most splendid and humbling of all Scriptures since it clearly shows how much Christ loves us. The apostle Paul wrote this with the global world in mind despite the fact we are full of sinful dysfunctions and aberrations dwelling within our bodies (i.e., self, ego, pride, greed and lustful thoughts etc.,) Christ died for us. He laid down his life that we could be made righteous by faith apart from the law, self-effort and works. In spite of our corrupted fallen nature God counts our faith in Christ as our righteous it is imputed to us as a pure and free gift this is what the words, "Christ gave himself as a ransom for all mean. Ponder for a moment the majestic beauty of the following Scriptures: -

- God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

- While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, how much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life (Romans 5:10).

These are breath-taking statements and should be an overwhelming comfort to every brother and sister of Christ since they carry an astoundingly and perfect example of love and are some of the most splendid and humbling of all Scriptures since they clearly show how much Christ loves us. Paul in the same letter also wrote the following: -

- While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly (Rom. 5:6).

This means that even though we were full of sinful dysfunctions and aberrations dwelling within our corrupted earthly bodies (i.e., self, ego, pride, greed, lustful thoughts, envy, jealousies, anger and such like things) Christ died for us he laid down his life down to a brutal, bloody and cruel death that we could be made righteous by faith apart from the law, self-effort and works. In spite of our corrupted fallen nature God that we have inherited from our earthly father Adam God counts our faith in Christ as our righteousness it is imputed to us as a pure and free gift. These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that God loved us long before we loved Him. Though some of us might die for a friend or loved one, Christ died for us while we were ungodly and indifferent to God and His ways and in many cases blasphemers.

Sadly some in the Christian faith, because of a lack of perceiving this great love God has toward us that these verses (and others like them) shine a spotlight on tend to determine whether God loves them by their good or bad circumstances. They feel if life is charmed and blessed God loves them, but if it suddenly takes a turn for the worse and trouble comes they feel God has withdrawn his love, but this is superstition and judging God according to the fickle circumstances of this world.

When anyone who believes in Christ doubts God's love all we have to do is look back to the bloodstained cross and see what it cost the heart of the Father to save us and how much his Son suffered to redeem us and spiritually crown and cloth us with a royal and majestic robe of righteous so that we could be justified and granted eternal life in everlasting glory apart from self-effort and strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days or keeping religious customs and traditions.

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### 1 Timothy 3.

#### The Church of the Living God, a Pillar and Buttress of Truth.

1 Timothy 3:15 ----- <sup>15</sup>if I (Paul) delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of truth.

**Buttress:** (ground of the truth in KJV) means a support, to fit securely and by implication immovable, unbending, settled and steadfast. The church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of truth does not mean that those in the church should dogmatically and legalistically enforce the teachings of the Bible upon those outside the Kingdom of God, nor does it mean that every brother and sister should be forced to believe every detail of doctrine from Genesis to Revelation to be accepted into the congregation of the church.

Though it is certainly true that all teachings of the Bible contain truth the teachings that the church is to uphold are teachings that proclaim the following glorious truths: -

- Jesus is the Son of God and the Saviour of the world.
- Jesus died and rose again to eternal glory.
- The message of the cross and the Good News of the Gospel.
- Repentance before God leads to eternal life
- Salvation is in the Lord Jesus Christ and in him only.

- No man or woman can be made righteous or saved to eternal life by self-effort, or by strictly adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions.
- Everyone is saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and by trusting in God's grace for righteousness that leads to eternal life.
- God at this present time is creating one new nation in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles.
- Those who have died in faith and those who are alive when Christ returns will be raised to eternal life and everlasting glory.
- Whoever confesses to believe in Christ should endeavour to live a lifestyle that honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of Jesus and the Christian faith.

These are the teachings and the truths that the church is told to contend for because they are teachings that not only concern the Lord Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world, but also teachings that lead to union with God and salvation to eternal life and everlasting glory and living a lifestyle that honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of Jesus and to the Christian faith.

### **Great is the Mystery of Godliness.**

1 Timothy 3:16 ----- 16 Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness, God was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

**Mystery:** means that which has been hidden or concealed, but the meaning as used here in these verses is not that it was mysterious in the sense that it was impossible to be understood, but that it had been kept hidden.

**Godliness:** literally means, holiness, goodness and righteousness, but in this context it refers to the plan of the Gospel which Paul states was the mystery which had been hidden from ages and from generations, and which is now manifest for all the world to see (Col. 1:26). Paul shines a floodlight on what the Mystery of Godliness is through the following six points: -

1. **God was manifest in the flesh:** these words do not mean that God was actually Jesus (as some teach), but that Jesus not only perfectly manifested God's character, nature, mind, love, compassion, mercy and forgiveness etc., but also perfectly manifested God's power and his eternal word, plans promises and purposes while he walked on earth as a servant to mankind. Jesus was God manifest in the flesh in that he was the perfect image of God and that God by his word and his Spirit dwelt in Christ without limitations.

Jesus was the manifestation of God's word full of grace, mercy, truth and power appearing in human form on earth (John 1:14).

Another way of saying God was manifest in the flesh is to say, "Jesus was in the form of God" meaning, he was the express image of the Spirit character and nature of God the Father, he perfectly manifested God's love, grace, mercy and power and the plans, promises and purpose of God on earth.

The character of Jesus on earth was an exact copy, image and form of the character of God the Father in heaven it is in this sense that Paul states, "God was manifest in the flesh." Since the phrase, "God was manifest in the flesh" means the same as "Jesus was in the form of God" it should be noted that the copy of the form of the object does not become the object itself it is a copy or image of the object meaning Jesus though he is a perfect image of God is not God Himself. Philip says: -

- Jesus being born in the likeness of men and in human form made himself a servant (Philippians 2:7).



Jesus was born of a woman, had the same body as all humans and was tempted as all humans are but without sin and even though he had all of God's Spirit and power available to him without limitation rather than exalt himself, he humbly made himself a servant of others setting the example for all those who belong to him.

**NOTE:** if Jesus was God (as some teach) he could not be tempted since the Bible says, "God Himself cannot be tempted" (James 1:13) nor could he die since God is immortal (1 Tim 1:17) meaning he cannot die, if He could He would not be eternal and immortal.

2. **Vindicated and justified by the Spirit:** the words vindicated and justified means to be proven right and blameless, the word Spirit as used in these verses refers to God's Spirit (also called the Holy Spirit). We know this because it is not possible to attach any intelligible sense to a phrase that read, "He was justified by his own Spirit." By God showing his approval of his Son Jesus was justified in the Spirit in the following three majestic ways: -

- a) By God descending on him at his baptism and testifying that he was the Son of God
- b) By his miracles and wonders since they were performed by the Spirit of God flowing through him and therefore were full proof that he was who he claimed to be since had he not been the Son of God, God would not have displayed such a clear and miraculous testimony to the claims he made of himself.
- c) Jesus was scolded as a sinner, and put to death as a common criminal, but was raised again by the Spirit of God, and so was justified from all the slanders, defamations and accusations with which he was accused. He was vindicated in that he was shown to be the Son of God by his resurrection to eternal glory and the right hand side of God and in this spectacular and majestic event his accusers (especially the Jews) were proven to be wrong in their judgment while Christ was proven to be right and thereby acquitted from all the charges alleged against him.

- 3 **Seen by angels:** since the word angels simply means messenger it can refer to human messengers acting for God (i.e., prophets apostles and disciples) or to the supernatural heavenly angels, but since no one need to be told Jesus was seen by men the reference here is to the heavenly host. Peter, when talking of brothers and sisters in Christ told them that they are: -

- Being born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for them, to be revealed in the last time, but have now been announced through those who preached the good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven things into which angels long to look (1 Peter 3-12).

Angels worshipped the Lord they attended his birth, his temptation, his agony, his death, his resurrection and his ascension. The design of Paul's discourse in verse sixteen is to give an impressive view of the grandeur and glory of Christ who though despised by people, attracted and excited and deepest attention of the heavenly hosts.

- 4 **Proclaimed among the nations (Gentiles):** Jesus proclaimed among the nation's means that salvation was proclaimed to all mankind, this was one grand part of the glorious mystery which had been hidden in God that the Gentiles should be made fellow heirs with the Jews, and be admitted into the Kingdom of God. The Jews regarded the rest of mankind as excluded from the covenant mercies of God. This was one of the principal stumbling blocks in their way in regard to the Gospel, because the Gospel gloriously proclaims that all nations are equal before God that that middle wall of partition that stood before Jews and Gentile is broken down and therefore salvation is now freely available to all mankind. The Gospel proclaims that God has granted both Jews and Gentiles repentance, forgiveness of sins and redemption through the Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephes. 2:14-15) (Ephes. 6:19) (Col. 1:26-27) (Col 4:3) (Acts 22:21) (Rom. 3:22) (Rom. 10:11-20).

- 5 **Believed on in the world:** these words obviously do not mean that all the world believed on Christ, but that he was received by all nations in contrast to Israel only. This is a most marvellous and striking part of the mystery of godliness, many of the Gentiles welcomed the Gospel which the Jews rejected. Who would have thought that the world which lay in wickedness would acknowledge the one whose Kingdom is not of this world and whose doctrines are opposed to all the sinful aberrations and dysfunctions of human nature (self, ego and pride etc.) and who was not only crucified as a common criminal, but also despised and rejected wherever his Gospel was preached would believe he is the Son of God and take him to be their Saviour.
- 6 **Taken up in glory:** clearly refers to the Lord's resurrection this majestic world changing event was the crown of his exaltation. He was raised from the dead and had glory put upon his risen body, he ascended to heaven and was received there with a welcome by his Father and is set down at his right hand crowned with glory and honour.

#### **SUMMARY: God was Manifest in the Flesh.**

The term God was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory (1 Tim 3:16) refers to God who by the fullness of His Spirit (also called the Holy Spirit) dwelling in Christ was reconciling mankind to himself. The apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthians wrote the following beautiful and comforting words: -

- If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:17-19).

#### **1 Timothy 4**

#### **Have Nothing to Do with Irreverent, Silly Myths.**

1 Timothy 4:7-8 ----- 7 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths (fables in KJV). Rather train yourself for godliness <sup>8</sup>for while bodily training (exercise in KJV) is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

**Fables:** from Strong's Concordance means a tale myth and carries the idea of something that is fiction. Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths refers to: -

- Stories that are not founded on fact and certainly of no value to the Christian faith (Jewish religion abounded with fictions of this kind).
- Speculations of Gnostics, concerning God, angels and the creation of the world.
- Teachings that have been introduced concerning religious traditions, laws and customs to make people righteous by adhering to them.

Since there were Jews who had been steeped in the Jewish faith for over four-thousand years and pagans who had worshipped idols and other gods uniting in Christ it is most likely that a mixture of all these fables were at some level being discussed in the churches. Paul is basically saying don't waste time on things that are simply speculations, man's reasoning or not based on fact rather spend time on the things that strengthen faith and enhance a person's life or lead to godly behaviour.

**Bodily training is of some value:** the words, bodily training (exercise in KJV) is of some value does not mean it has no value at all. There is no doubt daily exercise will enhance a person's mental and physical well-being, but concerning eternal life it has absolutely no value at all. Paul is most likely alluding here to the gymnastic exercises among the Greeks, which were intended as a preparation for their contests at the public games.

Those competing did so as though their life depended on it. They trained with passion, zeal and total commitment in order to be rewarded with a fading crown (a chaplet of leaves). Paul is telling those in Christ to exercise themselves with the same passion, zeal and commitment unto godliness so that they would be rewarded with crown that will never fade away.

**NOTE:** the words, "Bodily training and exercise is of some value, but godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come (1 Timothy 4:8) contain two great principals: The first principal I am sure is clear to all, so what is the other great principal?

Simply this: Paul acknowledges what is good and right even though it may not be the best, this principal should apply (at least I think so) to everything. Many secular spiritual writers and religions that are contrary to Christianity do contain certain truths that can enhance our thinking and our minds and therefore rather than focus on the negative and speak evil of them and annihilate everything they do just because they are different to our fundamental beliefs, we should acknowledge what is good and then proclaim what is better.

**Godliness;** in this context refers to the following: -

- Being humble and maintaining a good conscience toward God and man.
- Showing others love, mercy, kindness, compassion, forgiveness, grace sincerity, faithfulness, integrity and such like things.
- Doing what is right and good and what is proper and upholds justice (being fair).
- Treating all people with decency and respect, not just our brothers and sisters in Christ, family and friends, but also those outside the Kingdom of God.
- Helping the less fortunate and the poor.
- Upholding doctrines that lead a person to Christ and to eternal life by grace and not works.
- Holding fast to doctrines that teach good and right behaviour.

In contrast to godliness is living a religious life of hypocrisy and pretence, being formal, cold, hearted, dogmatic and legalistic and not only believing salvation comes by self-effort in keeping ceremonial rites, religious customs and traditions but also teaching the same to others.

### **Godliness is of Value in Every Way.**

If we all engraved these words godliness is of value in everyway (v8) on our minds the global church would have a much better testimony in the eyes of the world. Paul is telling all of us not to waste time in endless discussion over speculations and human reasoning, but instead refuse, to pay attention to them and don't even consider them of sufficient importance to occupy our time.

It is far more profitable to spend the time and the energy on sound teachings that encourages, uplifts and strengthen faith and on cultivating the fruits of the spirit (i.e., goodness, faithfulness and respect), because these are the things that will not only benefit our whole life (mortal and eternal) and keep us from trouble, but honours God and the Lord Jesus Christ and also brings a good testimony to the Christian faith.

**NOTE:** those who labour and suffer reproach, because they trust and have faith in the living God will not lose by it, because God who has undertaken to be their pay-master is the living God, who does Himself live for ever and is the fountain of life to all who serve Him.

He will by his Spirit encourage the faithful in all their services and in all their hardships they suffer for Him. God the Father has a general good-will to the eternal salvation of all mankind God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

He desires not the death of sinners, but their salvation. Now, if God has this attitude toward all mankind, how much more will He desire to reward those who seek and serve Him in love when He has such a good-will for all His creatures how much more will He provide well for those who are born again in love and devotion toward Him and His most beloved Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

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### **Our Hope is set on the Living God.**

1 Timothy 4:10 ----- <sup>10</sup>For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe.

When salvation to eternal life is spoken of as the hope of the faithful in Christ, it is not called hope because it might or might not happen, but because it is unseen and yet future. The hope itself is guaranteed because it is based on God's promise and he cannot lie. The apostle Paul wrote; "In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began" (Titus 1:2). The Christian hopes to be resurrected from the grave to be raised up to eternal life and everlasting glory to be made perfectly free from sin; to be everlastingly happy, but it is faith that gives these things a mental reality in the mind and it is under this influence of faith that those in Christ allow these unseen and yet future events to control their mind as if they were a reality now.

**Faith and hope:** the difference between faith and hope is that by faith alone we are sure of eternal salvation it is certain and guaranteed by faith whereas by hope we look forward with confidence that we will be raised to eternal life. All Christian hope stands on faith since it is faith that secures and guarantees the promise of God. Faith and hope go together they are partners that complement each other since the same things that are the focus of our hope are the same things that our faith is trusting in. Faith secures while hope looks forward to what is secured by faith.

**The living God, who is the Saviour:** since every Christian knows the Lord Jesus Christ is their Saviour some religious teachers use the following verse "The living God, who is the Saviour" (v10) to support the mistaken theory that that Jesus is God. Sadly this stems from ancient religious teaching, tradition and a lack of understanding the beautiful and perfect relationship between the heavenly Father and His most beloved Son the Lord Jesus Christ. God is the Saviour of us all since he is the source of all life. Before time began God in His eternal mind planned and purposed that salvation to eternal life would be in his Son, so Jesus is the fulfilment and Saviour of God's foreordained eternal plan of salvation for all mankind so without Christ no-one can be saved.

This shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that both God and Christ are our Saviour, but in a different manner. God is the Saviour in that He is the source of all life and planned and purposed the eternal way of salvation, but Christ is our Saviour in that he is the fulfilment of God's eternal plan. Without God there would be no Saviour, but God's eternal plan without Christ would be left bankrupt this is the reason the Bible in various contexts can refer to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ as the Saviour. For further information see the notes following (1 Timothy 1:17) (above) under the title: "Words of comfort and encouragement."

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### **1 Timothy 6**

#### **Different Doctrines and Teachings not in Accords with Godliness.**

1 Timothy 6:3-5 ----- <sup>3</sup>If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, <sup>4</sup>he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions. <sup>5</sup>and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

These verses refer to the following two things: -

- 1 The doctrine we are to agree on is, about believing in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and recognising that we all fall short of God's Glory and absolute Holiness. It is about believing that throughout the entire history of mankind there has only ever been one man who has ever attained to God's perfect standard of holiness. It is agreeing on the majestic Good News of the Gospel which states; "Whoever humbly comes to God through honest repentance and faith in God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ is approved of and accepted by God the Father and all their sins are forgiven, not because they are deserving of it, by any self-effort or religious good works, but because through faith in Christ, righteousness is imputed from God to them as a pure and free gift.

Those who abide in the Lord will be resurrected to eternal glory and everlasting life because of this free gift and their faith and God's grace. These are the doctrines we are all called to agree on. It is doctrines that concern salvation that leads to eternal life that those in the global body of Christ are all called contend for and to agree on.

**NOTE:** since the global body of Christ is filled with believers from different nations, languages and cultures; different levels of education (especially religious); different lifestyles; different degrees of emotional hurts and past baggage and many from broken families and all of us are growing in the fruits of the Spirit; in Scriptural knowledge and spiritually at different levels and at a different pace to each other there is always going to be certain things we will intellectually understand differently to each other.

Because of all these differences the words, "If anyone teaches a different doctrine" cannot refer to every detail of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation since then we would all have to be walking Bible encyclopaedias. Rather the doctrine that is in focus here is that doctrine (i.e., the Gospel) that leads to God and to eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ.

- 2 The teaching that accords with godliness refer to teachings that guide and lead a person to good and right living that honours God and brings a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith, and to behaviour that fulfils Jesus command and the royal law of love which states: "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Matt. 22:37-40) (Mark 12:28-31) (James 2:8). This means do not deliberately do harm and hurt to other humans. In the book of Romans Paul states: -

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).

The spirit of the law is to protect the innocent from physical, financial, sexual, verbal and emotional and spiritual harm. Those who know God aim to keep the law not to get saved, but because it is the right and loving thing to do, it fulfils the Ten Commandments regarding man, and the royal law. "Love your neighbour as yourself." Added to this it honours God and brings a good testimony to His name and the name of, Jesus and the Christian faith. Those who belong to Christ aim to keep the law not to get saved, but because they are saved.

They understand that righteousness is a free gift of God that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and cannot be earned by self-effort. Though the law is splendid as a guide to understanding God's will, as a means of reunion with God, the God we have sinned against, it is a hopeless failure nevertheless both law and grace go together, the law without the Gospel is diagnosis without remedy, but the Gospel without law is only the Good News of salvation for people who don't believe they need it because they have never heard the bad news of judgment, the law is not the Gospel, but the Gospel is not lawless (Rom. 3:19-20) (Eph. 2:13-22).

- Micah wrote: "What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God" (Micah 6:5-10).

- Isaiah says: “The LORD loves justice, hates robbery and wrong doing.” (Isaiah 61:8).
- Jeremiah said: “Those who know God practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights” (Jer. 9:24).

The great prophets Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah clearly show us that the people the LORD loves are not only those who acknowledge God, but who also uphold justice, do not lie, deceive or make promises they do not intend to keep, but speak the truth, do what is right, show respect and give help to others when able and make choices that lead to peace. These are the things the LORD delights in and that bring His favour.

**Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount:** the constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity, decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. This means living a life that honours God and the Lord Jesus Christ is about doing all we can do to protect people from harm and being dominated by the thought, “What action can I take or do that will help and encourage this person.”

It is all about doing right to others. This is the reason the message Jesus spoke on the mountain is referred to as, “The Famous Sermon” because the principals if followed not only by Christians but all humanity are the only way to peace (Matt 5). A wicked person is primarily one who deliberately and consciously denies the existence of God and does harm to other humans. For further information concerning Jesus Famous Sermon see: “Matthew 5” in, Commentary New Testament (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**Unity and harmony:** understanding that no-one has to be a walking Bible encyclopaedia to know the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved to eternal life means that there can be unity and harmony within the global family of Christ despite some intellectual differences. When there is this kind of understanding it allows each brother and sister to grow at their own intellectual pace and work out their own salvation before the Lord with their own conscience rather than having ministers of religion or the congregations impose or force their ideas onto them before they are accepted.

Added to this brothers and sisters in Christ are able to reason together over their differences in a spirit of adventure and the excitement of discovery rather than feeling they must prove they are right and the other person is wrong which simply develops an attitude of defending and attacking which leads to argument, strife and contentions (which is what Paul is referring to in the following verses).

**He is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing:** (v4) the (*he*) in this verse link back to the previous verses and refers to those who teach a different doctrine to the Gospel of Christ which declares salvation to eternal life is in the Lord Jesus Christ and comes by faith and God's grace and refers to those who teach doctrines that lead to behaviour that not only denies salvation by grace, but also dishonours the law of love and the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

Since it is eternal life and godly behaviour that are of great value to God and benefit human life Paul is saying, anyone who argues and quarrels over teachings that are contrary to the Gospel and not important to a person's salvation or to godly behaviour they are puffed up with conceit and know nothing meaning they have no idea as to what is important to the heart of God and because of this they cause quarrels, tensions and divisions.

**Imagining that godliness is a means of gain:** (v5) can refer to the following two groups of people: -

- 1 To people who believe that adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days, keeping religious customs and traditions and wearing holy garments etc., makes them righteous (i.e., godly) and of great worth to God and therefore they strive to legalistically and strictly adhere to the literal interpretation of religious laws, rules customs and traditions and by the strict adherence to these believe they

are more righteous and in many cases spiritually superior to others who are not as zealous or committed as they are to keeping such laws. Though some of these things maybe good in themselves not one of them counts for anything in regards to a person's standing before the Lord. This is because it is not religious works that God values, but good and right behaviour especially behaviour that stems from love and shows kindness, compassion, grace and mercy toward others.

- 2 To those who believe that being a Christian will bring great gain, meaning God will abundantly prosper them with worldly wealth, success and the best of material possessions, they believe owning opulent houses and top of the range cars is a sign of God's favour. Their belief is that if a person does right by God, God will in turn reward them with worldly riches, wealth and material possessions. The unspoken message of this corrupt teaching is that those who are not blessed with riches, wealth and worldly possessions are obviously (according to this distorted teaching) not in favour with God.

**NOTE:** the message of the cross and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ spiritually blesses those who receive it in this life and rewards all who endure to the end with eternal life in everlasting glory whether they are living in a third world country in the depth of poverty or living a life in a nice home with money in the bank.

**If we have Food and Clothing, with these we will be Content.**

1 Timothy 6:6-8 ----- <sup>6</sup>Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment <sup>7</sup>for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. <sup>8</sup>But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

Strictly adhering to ceremonial rites, religious laws, rules customs and traditions, means nothing to God in regards to a person's godliness nor are riches, wealth and worldly possessions an evidence of a person's godliness. What is a sign of godliness is contentment meaning being satisfied, happy and thankful for what one has in contrast to always craving for more. This is the reason Paul says: "We brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world, therefore we should be content if we have food and clothing."

Obviously today people need (especially if they live in the West) cars to get to work, school books or computers for their children shelter to protect from the weather and such like things, the idea conveyed in Paul's words is that if we have what we need to survive (i.e., live) then we should be content in contrast to those he speaks about in the following verses who have what they need, but constantly crave more.

**The Love of Money is a Root of all Kinds of Evils.**

1 Timothy 6:9-10 ----- <sup>9</sup>But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

**NOTICE:** Paul does not say that money is the root of all evil, or even that it is an evil at all. It is the love of it which is the source of the temptations that certain people who desire to be rich fall into. It should also be noticed that Paul says the love of money is the root of all kinds of evils (i.e., not all evils) (v10). Obviously money cannot be the root of all evils since rape, child abuse, arson and such like things are not motivated by money and it certainly was not the root cause of Adam's and Eve's transgression, but it is certainly the root cause of all the evils mentioned in these verses (i.e., those who desire to be rich).

Paul is warning those in the body of Christ that many who desire to be rich have been deceived because of their craving after worldly wealth and been seduced by the promise riches hold out and the prospect of wealth that they have departed from the faith. They have thrown away the promise of eternal life and everlasting glory for the pursuit of finding temporal pleasure and comfort in this present world. It is almost certain that Paul had observed throughout his ministry brothers who

had forsaken their faith to pursue worldly riches and seen that not only had they been overtaken with stress, worry, anxiety and the fear of losing it once they achieved it, but that it also opened doors to all sorts of sinful pleasures that they became seduced by, this is why Paul wrote, "They have pierced themselves with many pangs" (v10). Paul is warning those in the body of Christ that many who deeply desire to be rich and therefore crave after worldly wealth have been deceived and seduced by the promises that riches hold out and the prospect of wealth that they have departed from the faith.

They have thrown away the promise of eternal life and everlasting glory for the pursuit of finding temporal pleasure and comfort in this present world. It is almost certain that Paul had observed throughout his ministry brothers who had forsaken their faith to pursue worldly riches and seen that: -

- Their mind was consumed with stress, worry, anxiety and the fear of losing it once they achieved it.
- It opened doors to all sorts of sinful pleasures that they became seduced by.
- It allowed them to enjoy many non-sinful pleasures of the world that they gave no time to God in their life or in their thoughts.

No doubt this is why Paul said, "They have pierced themselves with many pangs. But the greatest pain they have pierced themselves with by trading their faith to pursue the riches of this world will be the gross disappointment when they see those who have lived content with what they have and endured in their faith through the hardships of life rewarded with eternal joy and happiness to be lived out in everlasting glory, whereas all that is awaiting those who have turn aside from their faith is a coffin and a grave since these are ultimately all that the richest man or woman in the world can have from all their wealth.

**NOTE:** this does not refer to a Christian brother or sister who has the gift of establishing and running a successful business through which they become rich and wealthy there is nothing sinful in succeeding in honest work. Added to this financial profits can be made available for works of charity and expanding the Kingdom of God. Being rich and wealthy only becomes sinful when a brother or sister running the company is driven by the love of money and greed and the craving for far more than they need and therefore not only do they forsake their faith, but they oppress their workers to make greater profits to fulfil their own selfish ambition and lust for worldly riches.

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### **The Sovereign King who Dwells in Unapproachable Light.**

1 Timothy 6:15-16 ----- <sup>15</sup>which he (God) will display (the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ) (v14) at the proper time—he (God) who is the blessed and only sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup>who alone has immortality who dwells in unapproachable light whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.

From these verses we learn that God the Father is the source of all life and at the appointed time He will gloriously bring about the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amongst Christianity some religious teachers have used this verse to support the mistaken theory that Jesus God's most beloved Son is actually God the Father. They assume this idea because in the book of Revelation the words King of kings and Lord of lords clearly refer to the Lord Jesus Christ (Rev. 19:11-16), but that does not mean that the title should be forced to refer to Jesus in these verses. To apply the title King of kings and Lord of lords as used in these verses to Jesus is flawed because these verses clearly state the following three truths concerning the King in focus: -

1. He alone is immortal meaning he cannot die, whereas Jesus did.
2. He dwells in unapproachable light whereas Jesus was approachable by all.
3. He has never been seen by anyone, whereas Jesus was seen by all.



Added to these the title King does not always refer to Jesus, many times in the Old Testament God the Father is called the King as the following verses show: -

- For the LORD is, a great God, and a great King above all gods (Psalm 95:3).
- Yet God my King is from of old, working salvation in the earth (Psalm 74:12).
- Mine (Isaiah's) eyes have seen the King the LORD of hosts (Isaiah 6:5).
- I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King (Isaiah 43:15).
- The LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting King (Jer. 10:10).

Also see the list following 1 Timothy 1:17 (above). These verses and the ones following (1 Timothy 1:17) (above) clearly show that God the Father is the Sovereign, Immortal, King who dwells in unapproachable light whom no one has ever seen or can see of all ages while Christ is God's anointed and foreordained King of the age we live in and the eternal age to come since he is the fulfilment of God's eternal plan of salvation and the eternal Saviour of the world. Paul is not implying that Jesus the Son is actually God the Father as some religious teachers proclaim. Paul starts his message in (v11) thanking God the Father for His plan of salvation and ends in (v17) with thanking the Father again giving Him the full title: -

- The only sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality who dwells in unapproachable light whom no one has ever seen or can see.

A title that only belongs to the one true Almighty God, "Who gives life to all things" (v13) (meaning God the Father is the source of all life). The New King James Bible says: -

- The blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords (1 Tim 6:15).

**This title:** "The blessed and only Potentate the King of kings and Lord of lords" cannot be referring to Jesus because the verse goes on to say, who only hath immortality dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto whom no man has seen, nor can see. Clearly people have approached and seen Christ even after his resurrection he appeared to many and they testify that they saw and handled him, yet (v16) says no man has ever seen Him or can even approach Him, evidencing that this title belongs to Almighty God and Father of all who belong to His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

Certainly Jesus is returning as the King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16) and certainly he is the King of kings and Lord of lords over the Kingdom of God, the church and all principalities, powers and rulers in heaven and on earth, but that does not mean that God his heavenly Father who created all things and is the source of all life (1 Tim 6:13) stops being the King of kings and Lord of lords over all creation.

**The principle:** could be likened to a man who establishes a very successful global company and is therefore given the title C.E.O. meaning chief executive Officer who has total control over all aspects of that company. Over time the man's son proves he is fully capable and trustworthy to run the company so his father passes the title C.E.O. over to his son. Now the Son has all the power and authority his father had, but that does not mean that the son has actually become the father nor does it mean that the father became the son.

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**For further information see the title: -**

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity).
- In Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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End.