

Essentials for a Healthy Church

1 Timothy 1:1-2

Introduction: Christ is the foundation upon which He builds His church (Mat 16:18; 1 Cor 3:11). He uses _____ in building it (Eph 4:11-12). So the church is a divine organism that functions through men and women equipped by the Holy Spirit to carry out its work (1 Cor 12:4-7).

I. Faithful _____

1. Paul – apostles laid the _____ for the church 1:1; 2:7

1) He was called to be God's special _____ ("apostle") Eph 2:19-2; 1 Cor 9:1

2) He was committed to _____ God's message Gal 1:11-12; 1 Tim 3:15; 6:20-21

Note from verse 1 insight into the message that he preached:

□ "God our Savior" – God is a _____ God (Is 43:3; 1 Pet 3:9; 2 Thes 2:13)

□ "Christ Jesus our hope" – Our hope is the hope of _____ provided for us by Christ's work on the cross and assured to us by His _____ (John 11:25-26)

2. Timothy – faithful servants who _____ Christ's church 1:2; 2 Tim 1:5-6

1) He was a _____ of the Word 2 Tim 3:14-15

2) He shared Paul's _____ for ministry Phil 2:22

3) He was a _____ Acts 16:3; 1 Cor 4:17; 1 Thess 3:2

4) He was committed to _____ 1 Tim 4:6, 11

5) He was a bold _____ for the faith 1:16; 6:20

II. Divine _____ 1:2

Whenever God calls us to do His work, He _____ us. Paul lists three resources:

1. _____

Grace is God's undeserved _____ that He bestows on those who are _____ before Him.

1) _____ grace Eph 2:8-9

2) _____ grace Eph 3:7

3) _____ grace Heb 4:16

2. _____

3. _____

1) Peace _____ God that unites us together with Him at the point of salvation Rom 5:1

2) Peace _____ God that brings _____ to our soul Phil 4:6-7, 9

Study Questions:

1. Note Paul's dependence upon others to labor alongside of him in Romans 16. What does that say about Paul and his relationship with people? And what does it imply about the need to recruit, mentor and train others in the ministries that we are involved?
2. Note that the New Testament describes the church as the "Body of Christ." It is a living organism in contrast to an organization. How is the function of the church distinct from a business or organization?
3. Paul referred to Timothy as "my true child in the faith." Share how God has used people in your life to have a significant impact on your faith and service in the church.
4. Paul challenged Timothy to be a bold warrior in the faith in 1:18. That concept of ministry is looked down on by many today. It seems that there is more of an emphasis on Christians being "nice" than being "bold." How can we maintain a balance?