

## 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 **human instruments** 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 Servants**

##### 1. **Paul – apostles laid the foundation for the church 1:1; 2:7**

1) He was called to be God's special **messenger** ("apostle") Eph 2:19-20; 1 Cor 9:1

2) He was committed to **preach** 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 **saving** God (Is 43:3; 1 Pet 3:9; 2 Thes 2:13)

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

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

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

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

3) He was a **humble servant** Acts 16:3; 1 Cor 4:17; 1 Thess 3:2

4) He was committed to **sound doctrine** 1 Tim 4:6, 11

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

#### II. **Divine Resources 1:2**

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

##### 1. **Grace**

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

1) **Saving** grace Eph 2:8-9

2) **Serving** grace Eph 3:7

3) **Strengthening** grace Heb 4:16

##### 2. **Mercy**

##### 3. **Peace**

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

2) Peace **of** God that brings **tranquility** 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?