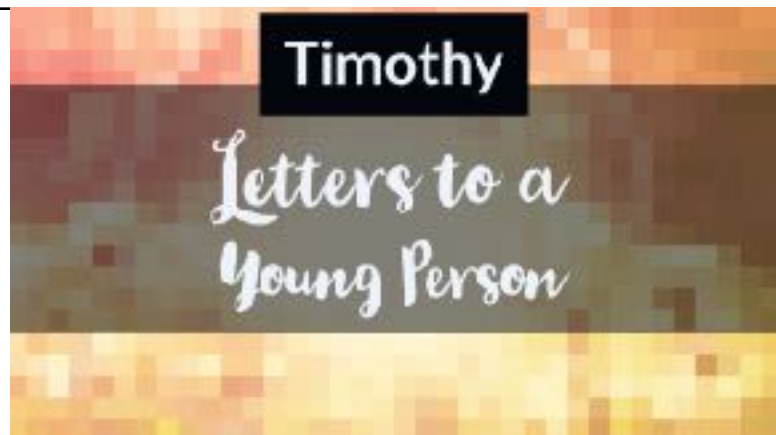

Graphics and Audio Notes

- There **will** be a sermon starter video.
- There **will** be notes and / or scripture to show on screen during the sermon.

Text highlighted in this way will have a slide prepared to be on screen.

Text highlighted in this way is a reminder for Andrew during delivery.



Key Questions

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is understanding the humanity and divinity of Bible as found in 1 and 2 Timothy.

Why is this sermon important?

It is important because understanding more about the Bible can help us engage it in a more meaningful and significant way.

What is the good news?

The good news is that God speaks throughout the Bible. The letters from Paul to Timothy have treasures for us today.

What are the next action steps?

You are invited to keep reading 1 and 2 Timothy.

When you come to the difficult passages, read them in light of Jesus Christ.

What is the context of this sermon?

This sermon is part of a series focused on 1 and 2 Timothy. It utilizes sermons preached as part of the txt worship series in 2014, which in turn included resources from: Wrestling with the Bible sermon series at The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection (<http://j.mp/1kl571S>); txt sermon series at LifeChurch.tv (<http://j.mp/1t5aqv7>) and the book Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton.

Metadata

Topics

- Grow

Sermon Books of the Bible

- 1 Timothy
- 2 Timothy
- Galatians

Tags

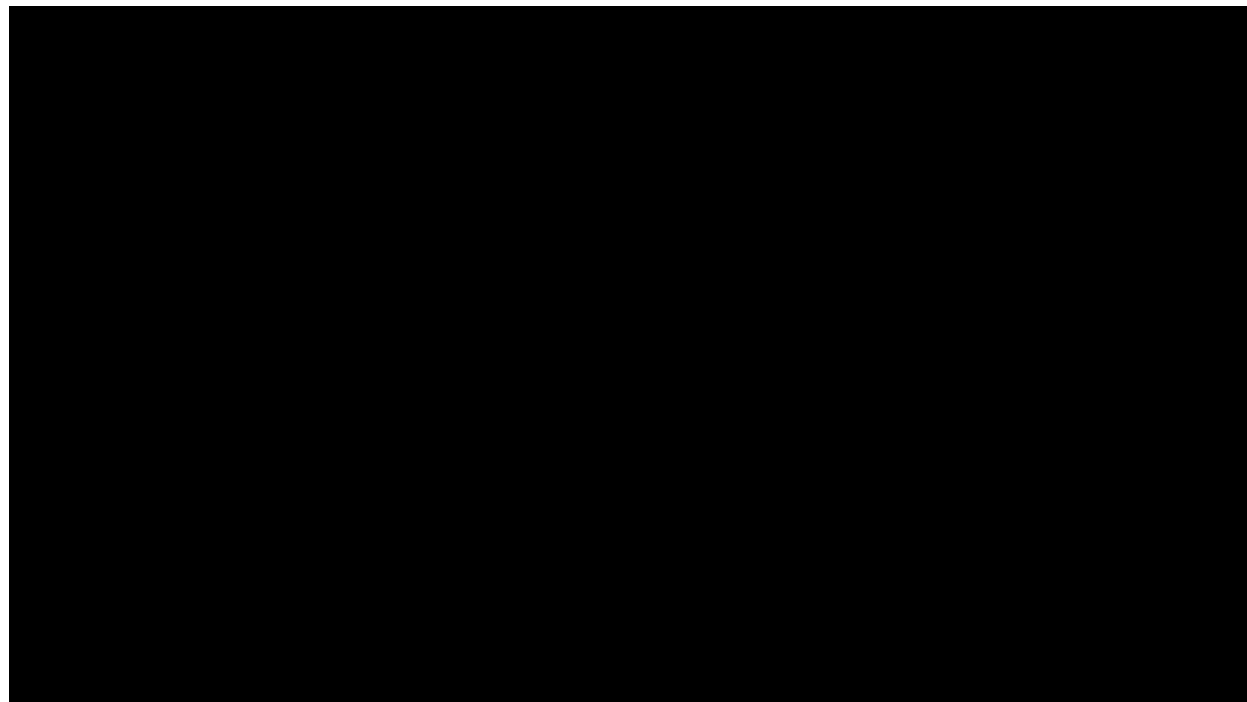
sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference, bible, story, narrative, challenging, hard, Timothy, Paul

Sermon Audio

9 a.m. Worship

11 a.m. Worship

Sermon Video



Introduction **5**

2 Timothy 1:8-14, CEB

Response to Scripture

Sermon Starter Video

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Marcion

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Interpreting the Bible through Jesus

7th Sunday after the Epiphany (Green)

February 19, 2017

Timothy: Letters to a Young Person - Don't Be Ashamed Sermon

2 Timothy 1:8-14

First United Methodist Church of El Dorado

Preaching Target Word Count: 2,109

Word of God

Illustration: Jesus as colander

Illustration: Butler County Oil Fields

God Speaking through the Bible

Conclusion

11

Good News

Call to Action

Invitation

Closing Prayer

Introduction

2 Timothy 1:8-14, CEB

⁸So don't be ashamed of the testimony about the Lord or of me, his prisoner. Instead, share the suffering for the good news, depending on God's power. ⁹God is the one who saved and called us with a holy calling. This wasn't based on what we have done, but it was based on his own purpose and grace that he gave us in Christ Jesus before time began. ¹⁰Now his grace is revealed through the appearance of our savior, Christ Jesus. He destroyed death and brought life and immortality into clear focus through the good news. ¹¹I was appointed a messenger, apostle, and teacher of this good news. ¹²This is also why I'm suffering the way I do, but I'm not ashamed. I know the one in whom I've placed my trust. I'm convinced that God is powerful enough to protect what he has placed in my trust until that day. ¹³Hold on to the pattern of sound teaching that you heard from me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Protect this good thing that has been placed in your trust through the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Response to Scripture

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

Sandy's Questions

Question about 1 Timothy 2

When I came into the office last week, Sandy Cooper, our financial secretary, had a question for me first thing. She said, "I have been reading through Timothy using the study guide in the bulletin and I have some questions. This part in chapter two about women and what they can or cannot do. What's that all about?"

Do you remember that passage in the reading?

Does anybody else have those questions?

Key Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:11-12

Let me remind you... Hear these words from 1 Timothy 2:11-12.

"A wife should learn quietly with complete submission. I don't allow a wife to teach or to control her husband. Instead, she should be a quiet listener."¹

Really? Interesting.

¹ 1 Timothy 2:11-12, CEB.

Pause

It is clear that Paul wasn't married.

Pause

Seriously, though, what is Paul saying here?
More than that, how do we understand portions of scripture like this?
I would guess that many of you also have questions about this passage from 1 Timothy. You are not alone.

Transition

Today, I want to remind you of some of what we understand about the Bible as United Methodist Christians.

Pause

Making Sense of the Bible

Here at First United Methodist Church, we encourage you to read your Bible. We will give you a Bible if you need one. You can go to bible.com and download a great app for your mobile device. If you don't have a smart phone or prefer a hard copy, I will give one to you for free.

I Love the Bible

I love the Bible.
I try to read it every single day, usually with an app on my phone.
I try to read it through every year.
I look closely at it each week as I prepare to preach.

One Book

John Wesley, the founder of Methodist movement said in reference to the Bible, "I am a man of one book."

I want you to be people of the book.
The Bible matters and I hope that it defines your life.

Pause

I Struggle with the Bible

I love the Bible and I also struggle with it. There are some passages, like this portion from Timothy, where you may find yourself saying, "This is a bit confusing."

There are some passages that, when you read it, cause you to say, "How do I make sense of this?" Especially in light of what I have learned about what Jesus said and did. God seems so different here.

Question Portions of Scripture

There are parts of the Bible that I question, passages that I don't really understand. Sometimes I wonder how it is possible that some passages are part of our holy book. There are many questions which people may have with the Bible:

- **Violence** - How am I to understand stories in the Old Testament in which God commands the people of Israel to kill every living thing in a town?
- **Science** - How can the creation stories of Genesis be reconciled with modern science?
- **Consistency** - There are stories in both the Old and New Testaments in which it seems that different things are happening at the same time - depending on who is telling the story. Does this make the story unreliable?
- **Women and Men** - Of course, this passage from 1 Timothy and others that present a view of men and women that is difficult to make sense of today.

There is no shortage of questions which could be asked about the Bible.



Pause

Transition

So, what is the Bible?

What is the Bible?

Divinity

The Bible is divine. The Bible contains words through which God breathes and there are words that speak to us and grip our hearts. This is God's story.

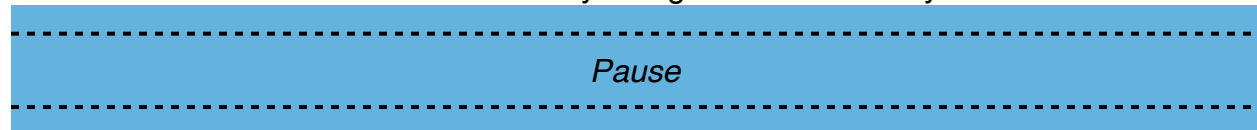
One story that sweeps over history.

One story that changes the world.

One story of God loving, forgiving, and drawing people back into relationship.

On the one hand it is pages and ink, it is a human book.

Yet it is more than that. It is a story that gives life that really is life.



Pause

Humanity

The Bible is human. It is a collection of writings by particular people in a certain time and place, with their own preconceived ideas. The Bible is shaped by human beings in a particular culture. They hear God's word and yet they are listening to that through the lens of the world in which they live.

Pause

Human and Divine²

Adam Hamilton, one of my colleagues in the Great Plains Annual Conference suggests that we might consider that there are at least two categories into which the Bible falls:

- Scriptures that express God's heart, character and timeless will for human beings.
- Scriptures that expressed God's will in a particular time, but are no longer binding.

Timeless

The first category includes passages like the two great commandments: love God and love your neighbor. They include passages that call us to "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God," and to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Most of the Bible fits into this category – capturing God's heart, character and timeless will for humanity.

Contextual

The second category of scriptures, those that expressed God's will for his people in a specific time and circumstances but which do not express the timeless will of God, include the command that males be circumcised, commands regarding animal sacrifices, clean and unclean foods, and hundreds of other passages in the Law.

Pause

Interpreting 1 and 2 Timothy

So, let's apply this to our reading from 1 and 2 Timothy.

Humanity

We might add the passage of scripture from 1 Timothy that calls for complete submission of women to be more reflective of the humanity of the Bible. These words are written in a certain time and place and may not be applicable for us today.

Key Scripture: Galatians 3:28

Elsewhere, Paul writes this:

"There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."³

Gail Wallace, of The Junia Project, writes this:

² Adapted from <http://www.adamhamilton.org/blog/homosexuality-the-bible-and-the-united-methodist-church#.WKiu3RiZMck>

³ Galatians 3:28, CEB.

“There is no command from God here, and no suggestion that Paul was establishing church policy for all time. There is no mention of this in the rest of Paul’s writings, or anywhere else in the Bible for that matter.”

Pause

Some of Paul’s writings have more to do with a particular time and place than God’s timeless will for our lives.

Divinity

Yet the great majority of scripture, including the writing of Paul, capture God’s heart, character and timeless will for humanity.

Key Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:9-10

Hear again these words from 2 Timothy 1:9-10:

⁹God is the one who saved and called us with a holy calling. This wasn’t based on what we have done, but it was based on his own purpose and grace that he gave us in Christ Jesus before time began. ¹⁰Now his grace is revealed through the appearance of our savior, Christ Jesus. He destroyed death and brought life and immortality into clear focus through the good news.

These words tell the overarching story of the Bible:

God is the one who saves us.

God has called you with a holy calling.

God’s purpose and grace is revealed in Jesus Christ.

Jesus destroyed death.

Jesus brought and continues to bring life.

Pause

God’s Word

So, how do we deal with these issue?

The humanity and divinity of the Bible.

Marcion

Edit the Bible

One of the ways of addressing this issue is one that was taken by a Christian named, Marcion in year 140 A.D. He concluded that the Old Testament describes a different God than the one of the New Testament so he left off the Old Testament all together. Also, anything in the New Testament that sounds like the Old Testament should be cut out—take out our scissors and cut it out.

What he had left was a Bible which had no challenges for him.

Heresy

The church said, this is heresy.

You have thrown out something that God has used to reveal God's self to humanity. You can't just take out the parts that you don't like.



Interpreting the Bible through Jesus

What you can do is to read the scriptures in light of Jesus Christ.

Word of God

God came to live as a human in Jesus Christ to reveal God's self to us.

In Jesus, we see the clearest picture that we have of God.

In the Bible, we see the clearest picture that we have of Jesus.

Jesus himself is the Word of God.

We can interpret every other word about God through Jesus Christ.

Illustration: Jesus as colander

Let me give you an illustration.

This is a colander. You know how this works, you put your vegetables or pasta in here. What comes out through the holes is what you set aside and what remains is what is good.

When you read the scriptures, you might consider using Jesus as the colander.

He is the Word that judges all other words about God.

If something doesn't line up with Jesus, then we are going to ask questions about that other thing. Jesus sums up all the teaching of the law by saying that you should love the Lord your God with all of who you are and love your neighbor as yourself.



Illustration: Butler County Oil Fields

You might think of 1 and 2 Timothy, as well as the entirety of the Bible like the oil fields of Butler County in the early 20th century.

There is oil everywhere.

There is a trickle here, steady production there, and then there are these amazing wells that produce incredible amounts.

God Speaking through the Bible

When we look at the Bible, we find that God speaks. There are things for us to hear on every single page of the text. In some places, we have to work hard to hear God's word. Then in some places, God's message jumps out clear and strong – like in the gospels when you see Jesus on the cross and then find the empty tomb. You have a powerful picture of God.

Conclusion

Good News

The good news is that God speaks throughout the Bible. The letters from Paul to Timothy have treasures for us today.

Call to Action

So, keep reading 1 and 2 Timothy.

When you come to the difficult passages, read them in light of Jesus Christ.

Recognize the difference with who God is as portrayed in Jesus and what may reflect a particular time and place.

Invitation

Then, say, I am still going to read the story because in these words God speaks.

Closing Prayer

Jesus, I am sorry for all the times in my life when I mess up.

And if anything comes to mind, ask God's forgiveness.

Forgive me of my sin and all that I know is wrong.

Thank you that you died on the cross and rose for me.

I trust you with my life.

Help me receive your forgiveness.

Please fill me with your Spirit and help me to follow you.

In your holy name, Amen.