



## LESSON THREE: TRADED PLACES

*power of the gospel* 2 timothy 1:8-12; 2:8-13

GRAND CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST  
STUDY GUIDE FOR SERMON

### objectives

1. To aid Christians in recognize Jesus Christ as the source of both salvation and power
2. To challenge Christians to develop their faith, their trust and dependence upon Jesus so that it might mirror that expressed by Paul
3. To encourage believers to commit themselves fully to the message of the gospel so that it might indeed become their consuming passion
4. To challenge those who have not yet confessed faith in Jesus examine their hearts and consider both what Jesus had done for them and what he has purposed for them to become

### getting started

1. Share with the others in the group a time when you had a great goal and worked hard to achieve it. What sacrifices did you make and why were you willing to make them?
2. If you were involved in the Mid-Ohio Valley Work Camp, or have been involved in a similar activity, a mission trip, a campaign, etc., share with the others in the group how your shared vision helped see you through difficult times.

### gospel of purpose and grace

1. Look at 1 Timothy 1:8-10 and 2:8 in context and then consider: Paul is...
  - in prison
  - deserted by his "friends"
  - considered "scum" (1 Cor. 4:13)
  - (has) suffered (2 Cor. 11:22-28)

But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.

2 Timothy 1:8b-11

- a. If you had been Paul, would you have ever wondered about God's "purpose" for you life?
  - b. How does suffering relate to fulfilling God's purpose?
  - c. Does Jesus, the gospel, help us gain insight into this relationship?
2. Paul had earlier written a letter to the church in Corinth where he identified a common mission of believers as being that of "ambassadors of reconciliation." Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-6:2.
    - a. How can we serve as "ambassadors" in God's service?
    - b. Go below the surface, how can you actively serve as an ambassador of God's reconciliation to others?
  3. What do we mean when we say Jesus "Traded Places" with us (2 Corinthians 5:21)?
    - a. How would you explain this need to someone who is not a believer?
    - b. How is Jesus' death is more than simply an example for us to follow (Mark 10:45; Matthew 26:28)?
    - c. How is it an example (1 Peter 2:18-25)?
  4. Some have said that we often complicate the message of the gospel. Look again at 2 Timothy 1:8-10 and 2:8 within context. What does Paul reveal as the gospel?
    - a. How long has God been working on his plan for the gospel?
    - b. What is the focus of the gospel?
    - c. Where do we fit into, and where do we NOT fit into, the gospel?
  5. Look at 2 Timothy 1:11-12 and 2:9.
    - a. What is Paul's purpose in life?
    - b. How certain is Paul of his purpose? His salvation? His Savior?
    - c. What is another word for such certainty?
    - d. To what you have been called? What is your purpose in life?

6. What is Paul's passion (2 Timothy 1:12)? Of what is he absolutely convinced?
7. Look at 2 Timothy 2:10-13. What does Paul say you can know about Jesus?

### recipients of a sacred trust

1. As you examine your life what passions consume and control you? For insight into the answer look at your calendar and your bank statement.
2. Do you feel like you are fulfilling your purpose in life? Look at 1 Corinthians 12 and 13. What kinds of gifts or opportunities for service do you possess? How are you using these in the body of Christ?
3. Take the time this week to look for God given opportunities to serve others, especially in the body.
4. Pray for your friends and family members (maybe even yourself) who are not Christians. Ask God to make use of you as an ambassador of reconciliation.
5. In what sense do you know Jesus? How could you come to know him like Paul?
6. What have you done with your "sacred trust" (the gospel of Jesus Christ)?