Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing

1 Timothy 1:1-20

Sermon Theme: Church leaders must lead God's people to persevere in the gospel in the face of false teaching and other challenges – what's critical is that we understand, celebrate, and guard the gospel.

1) We must understand the gospel (1-11)

   a) Gospel authority (1-4a)

   b) Gospel consequences (4b-5)

   c) Gospel content (6-11)

      i) How not to use God's law

      ii) How to use God's law

2) We must celebrate the gospel (12-17)

   a) Gospel testimony: Paul's salvation (12-14)

   b) Gospel truth: Jesus came to save sinners! (15-16)

   c) Gospel praise: This salvation is worthy of worship! (17)

3) We must guard the gospel (18-20)

   a) In our lives (18-19a)

   b) In our church (19b-20)

Outline of 1 Timothy

1) Introduction (1:1-2)

2) Exhortation to Confront False Teachers (1:3-20)
   a) Charge issued (1:3-5)
   b) Reason to confront false teachers (1:6-17)
      i) Misunderstanding of Law (1:6-11)
      ii) Misunderstanding of Grace (1:12-17)
   c) Charge reaffirmed (1:18-20)

3) Exhortation to Reverse False Teaching (2:1-6:2a)
   a) By enacting godly church order (2:1-3:16)
      i) Godly worship (2:1-15)
         (1) Evangelistic prayer for all (2:1-7)
         (2) Instruction for men (2:8)
         (3) Instruction for women (2:9-15)
      ii) Godly leaders (3:1-13)
         (1) Qualifications for elders (3:1-7)
         (2) Qualifications for deacons (3:8-13)
      iii) Reaffirming the importance of godly church order and right belief (3:14-16)
   b) By rejecting godless teachers (4:1-4)
   c) By pursuing godly teachers (4:5-16)
   d) By godly relationships (5:1-6:2a)
      i) General admonitions (5:1-2)
      ii) Specific admonitions (5:3-6:2a)
         (1) Concerning widows (5:3-16)
         (2) Concerning elders (5:17-25)
         (3) Concerning slaves and masters (6:1-2a)

4) Conclusion (6:2b-21)
   a) Charge to reject false teachers (6:2b-10)
   b) Charge to fight the gospel fight (6:11-16)
   c) Charge to the rich (6:17-19)
   d) Charge to guard the gospel (6:20-21)