

Series: Body Essentials: Imperatives for Church and Leaders**Today's Message: Excel at Doxology! (Don't be a Stranger to Doxology); 1 Timothy 6:13-16**

A picture out of focus distorts the subject. I read a story about a woman who was given an assignment in her photography class. The assignment was to photograph someone you deeply love and admire; someone you are very proud of. She chose her young daughter to be the subject of assignment. As the story goes, she took her daughter to a very beautiful apple orchard while the trees were in bloom. It turns out she missed her intended focus; the beautiful apple trees distracted from the primary focus of her daughter. The young photographer lacked experience of capturing on film the deep love, admiration and joy she felt in her heart for her daughter. In time and with instruction she will probably succeed.

Paul is training Timothy how he is to fulfill his calling successfully. Certainly, a great lesson for us, as I'm sure it was for Timothy, was to learn from Paul's example of doxology. Doxology means *glory words* which draw our attention and focus on the glory, attributes and nature of God. You may ask, how can I develop a life of doxology? The answer is simple: think about God all the time! Remember the statement a couple weeks ago, "What you are looking for is what you will live for." If you are living for God, if your mind and heart are inclined toward things above, you will, like Paul, like Timothy, live a life of faithfulness motivated by doxology!

Focus is everything for you and me if we are going to live for the glory of God. If you are going to live faithfully for Christ, the intensity of your focus will determine your doxology. Your quality of doxology will determine the quality of your motivation to be a faithful servant of God!

We are going to follow Paul's doxology in order to know God better so that we focus on living before the face of God being always faithful.

The progression to full scale doxology starts with a big thought:

I) **Good Doxology is birthed from good theology!**

- A) 6:13-14 Paul charges Timothy to keep the commandment faithfully before the face of God.
 - 1) Coram Deo Semper Fi!
 - (a) We have to understand the calling to keep is ultimately from God! God called Timothy!
 - (b) With God the Father and God the Son as the witnesses to Timothy's faithfulness.
 - (c) It is a daunting and big responsibility.
- B) 6:13 Paul sources God's Power and Strength as the Power supplying Timothy with strength.
 - 1) "...God, who gives life to everything..."
 - (a) The animating power propelling Timothy to faithfulness is the Creator God!
 - (i) Paul assured the Colossians that indeed, God in Christ "created all things, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers and authorities, all things were created by Him and for Him." (Col. 1:16)
 - 2) Timothy must settle it in his heart and mind: God is All-Powerful!
- C) 6:14-15a Paul assures Timothy of the *invincibility* of God!
 - 1) The God with all-power rules all history.
 - (a) Every event, every trial, every success, every joy; every kingdom rising and kingdom falling.
 - 2) And Paul assures Timothy that God will culminate history at Christ's appearing!
 - (a) "...until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ..."
 - (b) "...which God will bring about in His own time..."

Here is where you have to stop and imagine Paul's response to what he just received from the Lord and transmitted to Timothy in this letter. I can just see him. He says, "...which God will bring about in His own time..." And then, as if he's looking over the edge of the Grand Canyon, awed by the view, he pauses; that's why the NIV has a dash between the word time and God. –God! He's in awe of God! His attention turns to God. Now listen to doxology!

II) Good Doxology glorifies God!

- A) (15b) The most blessed God
- 1) Blessed: happy, nothing can frustrate Him.
 - 2) Listen to the WCF on the matter: "God has all life, glory, goodness, blessedness in and of Himself, and [without any influence from outside Himself] is Himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creatures which He has made..." It goes on: "He is the fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things; and His has most sovereign dominion over them to do by them and for them whatever it is that pleases Him."
- B) (15c) The most Sovereign God
- 1) Paul says, "the only Ruler." We understand that to mean that God is the absolute, unrivaled Sovereign.
 - (a) WCF: "In His sight (Coram Deo) all things are open and manifest; His knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent of all creatures so as nothing is contingent or uncertain...to Him is due from angels and men and every other creature whatsoever worship, service, or obedience He is pleased to require of them."
 - (i) Dt. 4:35b: "...the Lord is God; besides Him there is no other."
 - (ii) Is.43:13: "Yes, and from ancient days I am He. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?"
 - (b) God is the only God, the only Ruler, the Sovereign Ruler of all.
 - (i) Satan is NOT a rival. He is a created being subject to God's sovereign rule.
 - 2) As sovereign ruler He is the **King of kings and the Lord of lords.**
 - (a) The OT refers to God the Father in this way.
 - (i) Dt. 10:17: "God of Gods and Lord of lords." (see also Psalm 136:1-2; Daniel 2:47)
 - (ii) Jesus Christ, the Son of God is also referred to as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev.17:14; 19:16)
 - (b) In the Roman world of Paul's time, this declaration of God was in directly opposed to the deification of Ceasar as the king of kings and lord of lords! Good doctrine informs good doxology.
 - 3) The doctrine of the sovereignty of God brings peace, joy, contentment and determination to God's people, including Timothy, and it should us also!
 - (a) Timothy was to be strengthened to live *Coram Deo Semper Fi!*
 - (b) We too should be encouraged to never shrink back from being faithful in all things!
 - (i) What shall we fear or worry about if God is sovereign?
 - (c) What peace we forfeit when we doubt or fail to recall that our God rules over all things?
 - (d) Timothy is learning from His Master Gunny Sergeant that everything is "Coram Deo"
- C) (16a) The Immortal (Eternal) God
- 1) Paul found great help and strength in the revelation of God in Jesus Christ!
 - (a) Listen as I read 1 Timothy 1:15-17:
 - (i) 1:17 is full of doxology concerning the eternity of Christ!
 - (a) The King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God be honor and glory for ever and ever!
 - (b) Christ Jesus, who is eternal gives eternal life that can't be taken away (John 6:40).
 - 2) Paul taught Timothy to endure hardship, rejection and persecution with courage and bravery!
 - (a) Rom. 8:18: I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory that is to be revealed in us." (**see also 2 Cor. 4:17**)
 - 3) See also Ps. 36:9 (He's the fountain of life); John 5:26 (He possesses Life); Ps.90:2 (He has no beginning and no end! "From everlasting to everlasting, You are God!")
- D) (16b) The Holy God
- 1) He dwells in unapproachable light!
 - (a) No one ever has or can see Him.
 - (i) This describes His holiness. He is transcendent, meaning, He is "other than" us.
 - 2) But according to Hebrews 12:29, "Our God is a consuming fire." Meaning He is holy!
- E) But God! He sent His Son! We come to this unapproachable God through Jesus Christ! Access!
- 1) The person who lives in doxology will be able to life the life of *Coram Deo Semper Fi!*