

5. Lessons from Timothy: Our Witness

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel... 2 Timothy 2.8

Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back.... He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. Luke 17.15-16

In our text this morning “my Gospel,” “the Word of God” and “the Word of Truth” are three _____ phrases that encapsulates Paul’s response to this divisive movement that threatened the mission of the church at Ephesus and Timothy’s leadership.

“Reformed and always reforming” is a creedal statement of the Presbyterian Church and we are wise to take heed. It is good to reform false teaching, but even better to _____ it from taking root in the first place, or keeping our priorities straight to begin with.

We have to be careful for political ideologies and cultural norms can _____ in and displace Jesus Christ in the life of the Church as much as any theology.

As we try to work through our text this morning this is our opportunity to _____ ourselves, away from our political ideologies, away from our cultural norms, away from our theological and denominational systems to the priority of our faith which is Jesus Christ.

The most effective means of correcting false teaching is for _____ to be **the embodiment** of right teaching. Such a person is a living witness to the Word he proclaims.

If the Samaritan had not taken Jesus at his Word, and had looked for a _____ to “wiggle out” of going to the priest, he would not have been healed. Grace does not allow “wiggle room.” Grace doesn’t provide a way around obedience; grace makes the way for obedience.

Obedience is at the _____ of our witness to Christ! But obedience is not sufficient of itself.

The Samaritan humbled himself before Jesus and we see through that one act, the true state of his heart. To rightly explain the Word we must _____ like the Word, humble and obedient.

We see in the Samaritans _____ the essence of what it means to be the embodiment of the Word, that is, to be like Jesus: obedient and humble.

The Samaritan *prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and _____ Him* (Luke 17.15-16). The embodiment of Jesus’ heart in our hearts is humility, obedience and thanksgiving.

We witness to and for Christ, *rightly explaining the Word of Truth*, when our hearts are _____ by humble obedience and overflowing with thanksgiving. This is the Spirit’s call: humility, obedience and thanksgiving! God grant that we may be like Jesus!

