

Biblical Strategy

February 10, 2013

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I TIMOTHY 1:1-7

Week's Core Competency:

Identity in Christ: I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

This Week

Do you want to have the skills that would allow you to defeat the attacks of false teachings and doctrines? This week we will look at biblical *strategy* for possessing what God's grace has provided for those that have entered eternal life by faith.

Introduction

The 1983 science-fiction film "*WarGames*" follows a young hacker who unwittingly accesses the "WOPR" (pronounced "Whopper"), a United States military supercomputer programmed to predict possible outcomes of nuclear war. The young hacker accidentally gets the WOPR to run a nuclear war simulation, originally believing it to be a computer game. The simulation causes a national nuclear missile scare and nearly starts World War III.¹

Once the hacker learns of his mistake and because of his *loyalty* to his country he knows he must stop the looming war; as the computer continues to feed false information to the military.

After all the twists and turns of an 80's sci-fi epic the hacker's *perseverance* pays off and uses *strategy* to defeat the computer at its own game, and convinces the military that the pending war is all a simulation.

1. Adapted from part of the description at: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WarGames>

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read 1 Timothy 1:1-7

1. Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, *who is* our hope,

2. To Timothy, *my true child in the faith*: Grace, mercy *and* peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines,

4. nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation

rather than *furthering* the administration of God which is by faith.

5. But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

6. For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion,

7. wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. Three observations to make from the passage:

- What can we learn from Paul's description of himself (v.1) and his relation to timothy (v.2)?
- What is the ultimate goal of biblical instruction? (v.3ff) (see also Philippians 4:9, Matthew 28:19a)
- What did Paul mean concerning "teachers of the Law"(v. 6,7)? Remember, the "Law" was all the people had known, as the NT cannon was incomplete, and the OT was the final authority at the time (also see v.8-11 and Acts 17:11).

2. Three closely related questions to ask yourself and discuss with the group:

- What is a Disciple?

- What is a Man of God?

- How can I become like Jesus Christ?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, others' lives, and in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ