

COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

Study Guide

Now to the King Eternal

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Major Points

- 1 Christians must find their stability in Christ and the gospel rather than in political events, news cycles, or worldly answers — faith in Jesus is the only true hope.**
1 Timothy 1:15
- 2 False doctrine destroys the church and divides families, while true doctrine always leads to worship of Jesus Christ rather than man-made ways.**
1 Timothy 1:3-4
- 3 Paul's grateful response to being appointed to ministry — despite his unworthiness — should convict consumer Christians who view the church only as a source of personal benefit.**
1 Timothy 1:12
- 4 Every believer should stand alongside Paul and confess they are the worst of sinners, because recognizing our wretchedness before a holy God is what makes the gospel beautiful.**
1 Timothy 1:15-16
- 5 God's extraordinary patience in saving sinners rather than judging them demonstrates His love and provides an example for all who would believe in Christ for eternal life.**
2 Peter 3:9
- 6 The only fitting response to the real gospel is the doxology — ascribing all honor and glory forever to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God.**
1 Timothy 1:17

Key Quotes

“We need to stand on Christ no matter what we experience. Our nation needs to turn to Christ no matter what we experience as a nation. And anybody that tells you it's less than that is insensitive and is blind.

at 3:43

“If you don't get the doctrine right, you don't get the other things right.

at 14:48

“The revelation in that confession that I go to church to get what I can get out of it, I don't go to church to serve. The revelation in that is, I don't really love Jesus enough to actually appreciate what he's done for me in order to then serve him joyfully.

at 16:41

“The beauty of a savior is that he saves sinners. Not little sinners, capital S sinners. Real sinners who recognize a holy God, real sinners who recognize they've persecuted the living Savior.

at 25:19

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Anybody say, Hallelujah with me? I know we're Baptist, we're not supposed to do that.

at 36:13

“If we knew Jesus the way the Apostle Paul knew Jesus, we'd be like busting out the seams to serve him. Because it's the greatest thing on earth. Serving Jesus is the greatest thing on earth.

at 34:05

Discussion Questions

1. Paul describes himself as 'the worst of sinners' despite being blameless under the law. Why is it important for mature believers to maintain this posture of personal sinfulness rather than seeing sin as something they graduated from?
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2. The pastor challenges 'consumer Christianity' — going to church to get rather than to serve. How would you honestly evaluate your own motives for church attendance, and what would need to change for you to view ministry as a privilege rather than a burden?
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3. Paul was a blasphemer, persecutor, and arrogant man — yet God showed him mercy. Is there anyone you have written off as too far gone for the gospel? How does Paul's conversion challenge that assumption?
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4. The sermon warns against spending excessive time consuming news and social media that 'sucks the grace of God right out of you.' What practical boundaries could you set this week to protect your mind and heart from anxiety-producing content?
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5. The doxology in 1 Timothy 1:17 describes God as eternal, immortal, invisible, and the only God. Which of these attributes is most difficult for you to truly grasp, and how does meditating on it change the way you worship?
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Word Studies

μακροθυμία makrothymia

Greek

Longsuffering, patience, forbearance; literally 'long-tempered.' In 1 Timothy 1:16, Paul uses this to describe God's extraordinary patience in withholding judgment to save sinners, demonstrating that God's slowness to act is not indifference but redemptive intent.

Usage: 14 times in the New Testament

βλάσφημος blasphemos

Greek

One who speaks injuriously about God, slanderous, abusive toward divine things. Paul uses this in 1 Timothy 1:13 to describe his pre-conversion self, acknowledging he actively spoke against God by denying that Jesus was the Messiah.

Usage: 5 times in the New Testament

ἔλεος eleos

Greek

Mercy, compassion, pity; the outward expression of deep feeling for the affliction or misery of another. Paul says he 'received mercy' twice in this passage (vv. 13, 16), emphasizing that God's response to his sin was undeserved compassion rather than deserved punishment.

Usage: 27 times in the New Testament

Cross References

Luke 15:1-7

The parable of the lost sheep demonstrates the same extraordinary patience and seeking love of God toward sinners that Paul describes as the reason Christ saved the 'worst of them.'

Titus 3:3-7

Paul gives a parallel confession of his pre-conversion state ('foolish, disobedient, deceived') and the same theme of salvation by mercy and grace, not by works of righteousness.

Ephesians 3:7-8

Paul again calls himself 'the least of all the saints' and marvels that grace was given to him to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ — the same grateful astonishment seen in 1 Timothy 1:12-14.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

Paul identifies himself as the least of the apostles because he persecuted the church, yet insists 'by the grace of God I am what I am' — directly paralleling his confession in 1 Timothy 1:13-15.

Revelation 1:5-6

The doxology 'to Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood — to Him be glory and dominion forever' echoes the structure and theology of Paul's doxology in 1 Timothy 1:17.

Further Reading

- **The Gospel for Real Life**
by Jerry Bridges
- **What Is the Gospel?**
by Greg Gilbert
- **Saved by Grace**
by Anthony Hoekema

Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
1 Timothy 1:12-17	Read Aloud	8 : 10	<i>I give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord who has str...</i>
1 Timothy 3:15	Referenced	10 : 00	
Acts 7:58-60	Referenced	31 : 40	
Philippians 3:4-6	Referenced	43 : 20	
Ephesians 1:3	Referenced	38 : 40	
Ephesians 2:6	Referenced	39 : 00	
1 Peter 1:3-5	Referenced	39 : 20	
Romans 5:8	Read Aloud	45 : 20	<i>But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in th...</i>
2 Peter 3:8-9	Read Aloud	46 : 00	<i>Dear friends, don't overlook this one fact, that w...</i>
John 6:44	Referenced	36 : 20	
Romans 10:9	Referenced	50 : 20	