

Christ: The Blessed Potentate

1 Timothy 6: 13-16

Our text this morning comes from what is commonly referred to as one of the Pastoral Epistles. Paul is writing to young Timothy, seeking to encourage him in the faith and equip him for pastoral ministry. Just prior to our text verses, Paul offers a stirring challenge to Timothy concerning his spiritual life, [Vv.11-12](#). Often these verses are used at an ordination for a newly called pastor.

Clearly Paul has given Timothy a difficult challenge to pursue. As we think of this challenge, I am reminded that it serves as an admonition to all believers. Like Timothy, we need to pursue a spiritually enriched, godly life, and remain committed to the work of the Lord.

As noble as these goals are, they are impossible within our own ability. We will never accomplish such endeavors apart from the Lord. Paul well understood that, and he points Timothy to the source of his strength. He reminds him of the life and work of Christ our Lord.

I want to take a few moments this morning to examine the [divine attributes](#) Paul reveals regarding Jesus our Lord as we consider: [Christ –The Blessed Potentate](#).

I. The Communion of Christ (13) – [I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession](#); It is no mistake that Paul speaks of Christ in light of His relationship to God the Father. No doubt Timothy was well aware of their relationship, just as we are, but Paul emphasizes their communion. This remains a very significant attribute of Christ and a source of strength and comfort for the believer.

- We know that God exists as one God in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. We serve a triune God. Now, I will admit that I do not possess the ability to comprehend or fully explain the triune nature of God, but I believe it. Christ Jesus our Lord stands as the second person of the godhead. He is seated at the right hand of God the Father and remains in close communion with Him.
- It is encouraging that Paul emphasizes the very attribute that created such hatred and animosity among the Jews. Jesus proclaimed that He was in fact the very Son of God. The Father proclaimed, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Many continued to deny and reject Christ as the Son of God, but Paul encouraged Timothy to embrace Him as such.
- This brings comfort to us as well. We are not serving a dead god or an idol made of wood or stone. We serve the true and living God. Christ came to earth, robed in flesh, as the God-Man. He willingly laid down His life for our sin, rose victoriously from the grave, and ascended back to

the right hand of the Father in heaven, where He remains today! He is our Intercessor and Mediator! [Heb.7:25 – Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.](#) [1 Tim.2:5 – For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;](#)

II. The Confession of Christ (13b) – [I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;](#) Here Paul speaks of the mock trial as Jesus stood falsely accused before Pilate. He reminds Timothy of the character and steadfastness of Jesus as He stood before His accusers. In the face of death, Jesus never wavered. He stood firm on the Word of God and maintained His deity as the Son of God.

➤ I rejoice to know we are not serving a “has been.” We do not serve one who lived among men and achieved greatness, only to be cast aside and forgotten. We serve the Lord Jesus Christ. He came to earth with purpose, and He completely fulfilled His purpose. Men may have denied and rejected Him, but that does not change nor negate the very essence of who He is!

➤ Truth was rejected, but Truth prevailed! We face much in this life. Many today do not share our faith or embrace our Lord, but we can stand just as He stood. We must stand for truth and confess Christ as our Lord and Savior. We must present Him to the world as the source and means of salvation! [1 Pet.2:21-23 – For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:](#) ^[22] [Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:](#) ^[23] [Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:](#)

III. The Coronation of Christ (15) – [Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;](#) Paul reminds Timothy of the preeminence of Christ and the unique position He holds. There are none who compare to our Savior. Nero may have ruled with an iron fist and brought much suffering to the believers of Paul’s day, but one far greater than Nero occupied the throne of glory!

➤ Paul speaks of Christ as [the blessed and only Potentate](#). He is blessed, possessing the favor of God; being marked by the fullness of God. He is the only Potentate. This speaks of *His absolute and sovereign rule*. It refers to *one who possesses power and authority, one who occupies the highest position*. The word Potentate is translated from the word which gives us our word *dynasty*. Isn’t it great to know we serve the blessed and only Potentate?

➤ Paul also refers to Christ as the King of kings and Lord of lords. He came the first time as a humble babe, the Lamb of God prepared as the sacrificial atonement of humanity. He did offer

Himself as the ultimate sacrifice, but He rose again victorious. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He will not come again as a humble babe, but as a sovereign Judge and King. He will establish His kingdom and rule here upon the earth. All will stand before Him as the righteous Judge and He will cast Satan into the lake of fire for all eternity!

➤ What do we have to fear, serving One who possesses such power and sovereign rule? If you are struggling in the journey today, take a look at Christ. Our world may appear to be spinning out of control, but we are assured of the power and might of Christ our Lord.

IV. The Character of Christ (16) – *Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom *be* honour and power everlasting. Amen.* Paul goes on to describe the very essence of Christ our Lord and divine character He possesses.

➤ Our Lord is one of *immortality*. Yes He died upon the cross. They did in fact take His lifeless body and place it in a borrowed tomb. However, death and the grave could not hold Him. He conquered the sting of death brought about by sin. He overcame the icy grip of the grave, coming forth victorious. *Rev.1:18 – I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.* We may come face to face with death, and our bodies may be buried in the grave, but through the power of the resurrection, all believers will come forth victorious through Christ our Lord. We have no reason to fear death. *1 Cor.15:54...Death is swallowed up in victory.* ^[55] *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*

➤ Paul also shares the glory of Christ with us, speaking of *His dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see.* Take a moment to consider the joy this must've brought to Paul. He had encountered the resurrected Lord in all of His glory on the Damascus road. He experienced Light brighter than the noonday sun. Such glory is unapproachable by mere mortals. Christ did on occasion reveal His glory, but it is too marvelous for the physical eye to behold or body to endure. One day we shall see Him as He is. We will have the glorious privilege to look upon the glory of the One who secured our redemption!

➤ Surely one such as He is worthy of all honor and praise: *to whom *be* honour and power everlasting. Amen.* Surely He is worthy of our worship! We will one day gather around the throne eternal and worship Christ our Lord and King throughout the endless age. All will recognize Him as Lord and bow before His presence. *Phil.2:9-11 – Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:* ^[10] *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;* ^[11] *And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

V. The Coming of Christ (14-15) – That thou keep *this* commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: ^[15] Which in his times he shall shew, *who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Timothy would endure much difficulty and pain in this life, but this would not be all he would encounter, nor would it be all he would receive. Paul reminds Timothy, and all believers, at the appointed time, Jesus would appear. He had gone away, but He is coming again.

➤ Our world is filled with adversity. There are fewer believers today than there were just a few years ago. We face the effects of sin in our bodies as we age and face disease. We may face death, but we can rejoice knowing our Lord is coming again just as He said He would. [Heb.9:28](#) – So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. [Titus 2:13](#) – Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; [Rev.1:7](#) – Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Conclusion: What a blessing it is to know Christ as my Lord and Savior. As I consider all He is, I am challenged to follow His example and strive to walk in a way that pleases Him. I am secure in Christ my Lord. He forever settled my sin debt on the cross and my account is paid in full through Him. My name is written in the Lamb's Book of life and I am anticipating the day when He comes for the church. He has gone away, but He is coming again!

This passage brings great hope and comfort to the believer. We serve One who possesses all power and He is more than able to equip us for the race we run. Have you met Christ in salvation? He may come for the church today. We may hear the trump of God at any moment, as Christ steps out on the clouds and calls for His bride. If that were to happen right now, have you made preparations to be included in that number? If not, seek the Lord while there is time and opportunity. All will bow and confess Christ as Lord, either in submission at salvation or in submission prior to eternal separation and condemnation.