



First Timothy

King of kings

Lord of lords

I Timothy 6:15, 16

Lesson Thirty-Four

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum



First Timothy

A Study of the First Letter of the Apostle Paul to His Son in the Faith

King of Kings—I Timothy 6:15, 16

In our Scripture verses today, we have what some people would call a doxology. A doxology is poetry, often set to music, which is praise to God. One of the most familiar of the musical doxologies sung in churches today says, “Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.” In our Scripture verses today, Paul speaks seven praises: God as:*

1. The blessed and only Ruler
2. The King of Kings
3. The Lord of Lords
4. Who alone is immortal
5. Who lives in unapproachable light
6. Whom no one has seen
7. Or can see.

Read I Timothy 6:15, 16.

Paul has just spoken of the Lord Jesus Christ and referred to His “appearing.” Jesus will return to Earth, it is the promise of God. Jesus, the Christ (Messiah), was sent the first time by God, the Father. He became our Savior while He was here on earth. He will be sent the second time by God the Father, and at that time will take all Christians to be with Him for eternity. When Paul begins to think about that, he just bursts into song. Some think that he may be writing down here what was already being sung in the Synagogues of that day.

Let’s look at these things Paul was singing about God one by one.

Ruler is someone in charge. The Jewish Synagogues, in which Paul grew up, had rulers. This person was in charge and saw that all the things that needed to be done were done. It was the ruler of the Synagogue who handed the scroll, or written Scripture, to whoever was to read it that day. Notice that all through this doxology, Paul points out the uniqueness of God. He is the blessed and ONLY ruler. No one tells God what to do. And, what He says goes, always!

Paul said that God is the King of kings. The world has had many kings. In Timothy’s day, Nero was the king (They called him Caesar). The Roman king had great power. He commanded a great army. He ruled over a kingdom that was probably the greatest up to that time. He had great wealth. He had the power of life and death. He could speak and most of the western world would listen. But, Paul said, Nero is not the true King. God alone is the King of kings. All power belongs to God. Only with God’s permission does anyone else have power.

He said that God is the Lord of lords. There are other earthly leaders who claim power over individuals. Slaves called their owner lord. Persons who were in other positions of authority, even fathers, were also referred to as lord. When Paul said King of kings and Lord of lords, he

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wanted Timothy, and the church at Ephesus, to know that they could confidently sing that God was above all kings and in charge of all lords.

Then, Paul said that God alone possesses immortality. Immortality means that one cannot die. There is no one and nothing other than God having no beginning and no end. First, God is not mortal. He is not human. He is also not created. He is the creator. Everyone else is created by Him. So the only one who has always existed and will never die is God.

Next he said that God lives in “unapproachable light.” This curious phrase means that God is so radiant that humans cannot come near Him. Think about Moses on the mountain. He asked God for a face to face meeting. God said it is impossible. It is not as if God wants it that way, it is just that He is so holy, so beautiful, so wonderful that we are not worthy to get near Him. His glory is just too bright for us.

Humans have not seen God. God told Moses that He would go by and when He had passed, he would allow Moses to see the afterglow. (Exodus 33:18ff) Moses came down from the mountain with a glow on his face. (Exodus 34:29ff) Humans cannot see God, it would be too much.

And, finally no one can see God. People have gone deep into the earth, flown to other planets, climbed high mountains, explored tiny particles even smaller than atoms, but no one has ever found God. He is found only in people’s hearts.

Paul ends his song with the words, “To Him be honor and might forever.” Surely if we think of God in the ways Paul described Him it will make us want to sing praises to Him and to work for Him to help everyone see how great He is.

This praise statement was very common in the early church. I Peter 5:11 says, “To Him be power for ever and ever. Amen. Jude 25 says, “To the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.” The Revelation 5:13 says, every creature singing, “To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

Elsewhere Paul tells us that the only way we can experience God is to do so by faith. Though we cannot fully understand Him, though we cannot see Him, and even though He lives in “unapproachable light,” we can have an intimate, personal and real relationship with Him by believing what the Bible says about Him, and inviting Him into our hearts by faith.”

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

Lesson Goal: To remind students of the greatness of God. To encourage students to react to the greatness of God by praising Him individually and with others as a part of a church.

Scripture Memory: “To Him be honor and might forever. Amen.” I Timothy 6:16b

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Student Worksheet—Following Through

King of Kings—I Timothy 6:15, 16

>What are the seven praises Paul lists about God in our Scripture lesson for today.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

>The only one who has always existed and will never die is _____.

>He is so _____, so _____, so _____ that we are not worthy to get near Him. His _____ is just too bright for us.

>People have gone deep into the _____, flown to other planets, climbed high _____, explored tiny particles even smaller than _____, but no one has ever found _____. He is found only in people's _____.

>Surely if we think of _____ in the ways Paul described Him it will make us want to sing _____ to Him and to work for Him to help everyone see how _____ He is.

>We can have an intimate, _____ and real relationship with Him by _____ what the Bible says about Him, and _____ Him into our hearts by _____.

For Memory: “To Him be honor and might forever. Amen.” I Timothy 6:16b

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.