

THE BACKSTORY

From the series – 1 TIMOTHY: EVERY MOMENT, EVERY DAY

SERMON SUMMARY...

Everyone has a backstory. A story of where we once were... a story of who we once were. Stories of things we've done, and things done to us. Stories that ultimately shaped not only where we are but who we are today. To best understand 1 Timothy, we must first understand the backstory of its author, Paul. The backstory of the Apostle Paul might be the most notable and memorable backstory in all of human history. One unexpected encounter with Jesus not only changed Paul but changed the face of Christianity. As we begin the series in 1st Timothy, we will explore how the theme of Paul's life is felt in every word penned to Timothy – EVERY MOMENT, EVERY DAY. In other words, meeting Jesus and believing the good news he has to share transformed every aspect of his life.

REFLECT...

If "JESUS + NOTHING = FULL STOP", when and where did Jesus stop you? If Jesus has not yet stopped you, is there something that holds you back from seeing and believing who he is?

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS...

1. Read [1 Timothy 1:1](#) – why is Paul's introduction to Timothy so powerful? How might this introduction have encouraged Timothy? How does this introduction encourage you?
2. Read [Acts 8:1](#) & [Acts 9:1-2](#) – why was Saul so eager to destroy Christianity? What drove him to use 'every breath' to breath out murderous threats towards Christ-followers?
3. Read [Acts 9:3-9](#) – what stands out to you about how Jesus stopped Saul in his tracks? Why is Jesus' response to Saul's question 'who are you?' so significant? Why would Jesus want Saul blinded for the final leg of his journey into Damascus? What connection is there between his 'physical blindness' and his 'spiritual blindness'?
4. Read [Galatians 1:15-16](#) – We all have a backstory, but from God's perspective, we all have an eternal story. How should our eternal story shape all other stories in our lives? What story is your life currently saying? What story is God seeking to write through you today?

ACT...

The Gospel – what God has done for us in Jesus Christ - should shape and define EVERY MOMENT, EVERY DAY. Reflect once more whether or not the gospel is shaping EVERY MOMENT, EVERY DAY or just SOME MOMENTS, SOME DAYS. If the later, what would it take to start living the former?