



# Sermon Notes from 21 October

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## Stepping Out in Faith (1 Timothy 1:1-2)

by Pastor GL Wong

*Why do you serve? Why should you serve?*

Your answers are shaped by what you think about God, yourself and others. In this letter of Paul, we see how he sees God, himself and others.

Why Serve?

### 1. We are chosen by God to serve (v1)

*apostle* - Appears 79 times in the New Testament; it refers to those who had witnessed the resurrection of Christ and were commissioned and empowered to proclaim the gospel to all nations.

Paul was zealous for Christ. His choice to serve was in response to God's choice for him to serve.

Matt 28:19 A disciple, having heard the gospel and coming to faith like us, is a learner and follower of Jesus.

John 15:8,16; Gal 6:10 A Christian is a disciple, chosen by God to do good especially in the church that you are a part of. One of the ways is to serve in a church ministry.

1 Cor 1:27-29 God saved us to bear witness and serve! Our service to God is not about us but ultimately about Him!

1 Pet 4:10 You are a disciple of Jesus Christ and have been given a spiritual gift to serve with in whichever capacity.

### 2. It is an honour to serve (v1)

Christ Jesus is the only one who was sent by God to be the King and Deliverer. Christ means the chosen and anointed one – the Greek for the Hebrew title, *Messiah*.

John 6 Give your *five loaves and two fishes* regardless of others' opinions. God is able to multiply your gift for His glory!

### 3. We are commanded to serve (v1)

Paul sought to obey God because he loved God (Jn 14:15).

### 4. We are grateful to God for our salvation (v1) *God our Savior*

Those who recognize how sinful they are, continually look to God as their Savior through Jesus Christ (2 Tim 1:10).

### 5. It is a reflection of our hope (v1)

We think of an endurable life as one with less suffering. But it is the hope that stems from faith in God, that keeps us going on in our service.

2 Cor 11:23-27 Paul endured extreme hardship in ministry but we shun any kind of suffering in our service.

Three things about our hope in Jesus:

1 Pet 1:3 A Living Hope - Jesus who died for our sins is alive!

Heb 6:19 A Sure Hope - we now have access to God!

Titus 2:1 A Blessed Hope - Jesus is coming back for us!

### 6. It is an expression of deep love for others (v2) *my true child in the faith*

Paul lovingly disciplines Timothy through his words, counsel and his example.

Acts 8:3 Having tasted God's love, we are shaped by Him to love others.

### 7. It blesses those who receive our service (v2) ... *Grace, mercy and peace* is bestowed on those we serve and we too are blessed in return (Acts 20:35).

Application:

1. If you are already serving in ministry, continue to serve faithfully

2. If you are not serving in ministry, step out to serve in faith

God builds his Church as we step out to be active servers for him and his people.