

1 Timothy 1:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

Analysis

According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust. Paul identifies the standard by which all doctrine and morality must be measured: "the glorious gospel of the blessed God" (to euangelion tēs doxēs tou makariou theou, τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τῆς δόξης τοῦ μακαρίου Θεοῦ). The gospel is characterized by glory (doxa, δόξα)—divine splendor, majesty, and honor. It reveals God's glorious character and accomplishes His glorious purposes. This "gospel of glory" stands in contrast to the empty, powerless teachings of the false teachers.

God is described as "blessed" (makarios, μακάριος), meaning supremely happy, fully satisfied in Himself, lacking nothing. This self-sufficient blessedness grounds gospel truth: God didn't need to save humanity for His own benefit but acted from free, sovereign grace. The gospel reflects not divine need but divine abundance and generous love.

This gospel "was committed to my trust" (ho episteuthēn egō, ὁ ἐπιστεύθην ἐγώ). The verb pisteuō (πιστεύω) in the passive voice means "to be entrusted with." Paul views his apostleship not as personal achievement but as sacred stewardship—he received the gospel as a trust to be faithfully transmitted. This understanding of ministry as stewardship rather than ownership prevents both pride and innovation in handling God's truth.

Historical Context

The concept of gospel (euangelion, εὐαγγέλιον, "good news") had specific connotations in the Roman world. The emperor's birth, accession to power, or military victories were announced as "gospel"—good news bringing peace and prosperity. Paul's use of this term for Jesus' message was countercultural: true good news isn't found in Caesar's power but in Christ's cross and resurrection.

Paul's emphasis on being entrusted with the gospel reflects the nature of apostolic authority. The apostles didn't invent Christian teaching or possess authority to modify it; they received divine revelation to transmit faithfully. This contrasts with false teachers who promoted novel ideas or adapted the message to cultural preferences. Apostolic authority meant faithful stewardship of received truth, not creative innovation.

The description of God as "blessed" countered Greek philosophical notions of deity. Many philosophical schools portrayed the gods as detached, disinterested in human affairs, or subject to fate. The biblical God is supremely happy in Himself yet freely chooses to engage humanity in covenant relationship. This active, personal God who reveals His glory through gospel grace differed radically from philosophical abstractions.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does viewing the gospel as "glorious" rather than merely factual affect how you share your faith?

2. In what ways do you demonstrate faithful stewardship of gospel truth entrusted to you?
3. What practices help you maintain wonder and joy in the gospel rather than treating it as familiar or routine?

Interlinear Text

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|------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| κατὰ | τὸ | εὐαγγέλιον | τῆς | δόξης | τοῦ | μακαρίου |
| According | G3588 | gospel | G3588 | to the glorious | G3588 | of the blessed |
| G2596 | | G2098 | | G1391 | | G3107 |
| θεοῦ | ο | ἐπιστεύθην | ἐγώ | | | |
| God | which | trust | my | | | |
| G2316 | G3739 | G4100 | G1473 | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 2:7 (Parallel theme): But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter;

1 Timothy 6:15 (Blessing): Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

Titus 1:3 (References God): But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;

Romans 2:16 (References God): In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (Faith): In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.