

0. Gospel of IX is proclaimed in all the world and to all people. That was God's intention from the very beginning – starting off right there in Paradise and not ending before IX came at the zenith of time:
 - 0.1. "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be **to all people**." (Angel's good news, when IX was born in Bethlehem. Lk.2)
 - 0.2. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to **preach the gospel to the poor**; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." (IX in Nazareth, when he started his public ministry in Judea & Galilee Lk.4)
 - 0.3. "These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that **all things must be fulfilled**, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the **scriptures** (OT), And said unto them, Thus it is written (**in the Bible**) and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name **among all nations**, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. The apostles – 12 – and one of them was a traitor!
 - 0.4. Well, on Tuesday we heard about St. Mark the evangelist. Yesterday we heard about St. John and St. Peter. These prominent members of that great cloud of witnesses of these things IX did as the beloved son of the Father in the power of the HS.
1. Now we also know about St. Paul and how he, who was first Saul was confronted by IX, converted, turned around and made into the biggest apostle of all times. Today's lesson is his witness to the Gospel of IX to all people. He's not only in agreement with the apostles, but is himself a holy apostle of the Lord – although he was not with them in their apprenticeship, he was especially called, installed and ordained by IX into a very specific ministry and pastoral office, upon whose witness we as pastors, teachers, bishops, missionaries and evangelists found all our preaching, teaching, admonition and encouragement.
2. **1 Timothy 1:12-17 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. **Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.****
3. **This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation!** True, not fake. Not to be taken lightly, by the way, but rather with open hearts and minds.
 - 3.1. Yesterday we heard Professor Nordling taking an exegetical approach to his sermon and biblical witness. The day before more an historical and anecdotal one. I'm taking his cue and together with you progress today to a dogmatic perspective on our lesson.
 - 3.2. Systematics II: Christology and Soteriology. IX came (Incarnation) into the world to save (Justification) sinners (Anthropology: Original Sin, Sanctification, Simul iustus et peccator). Regula fidei (Rule of faith) – articles 1-3 of the apostolic and prophetic faith ruling the Christian church as its true foundation, sure guideline and hermeneutical parameter.
 - 3.3. **Good example: St. Paul's biography – his life story.**
 - 3.3.1. Blasphemer, persecutor, injurious. Sinner and the chief of those!

3.3.2. Obtained mercy & Grace.

3.3.2.1. extenuating circumstances (mitigating, but not vindicating and justifying):
Ignorance of the law is no excuse: ignorantia iura non excusat! Ignorantia iuris nocet (not knowing the law is harmful).

3.3.2.2. Grace of IX was exceeding abundant in Faith & Love

3.3.2.3. Show's Christ's longsuffering

3.3.2.4. Example of encouragement to all other believers/sinners

3.3.3. Honour, praise and glory to God: King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God.

3.3.3.1. Enabled me

3.3.3.2. Counted me faithful

3.3.3.3. Put me into the ministry.

4. We should however see, that exegesis, church history and dogmatics are but initial steps to a sermon. IX witness still needs goes a step further and that is because, it addresses the people of this world with God's holy word: You are the man. You are the woman, I want to hear and believe the witness of Christ, hear his voice, get to know his precepts and holy law and trust his faithful promises, which are more secure and stable than the mountains and continents of this globe. Audience has to be taken into account. So if Professor Nordling speaks Greek to you, he takes into account, that you are scholars of that language. You are learning Greek. We don't do it to show off, but to prove a point. In a normal congregation you wouldn't do it – at least not regularly.

4.1. In the homiletic meditation we take into account our audience, it's background, context and cultural and social setup. We look at media, literature, films etc. too. But also the hymnal our catechism, a congregational or Seminary framework.

5. Even if heaven and earth go down, God's word will remain in eternity.

5.1. Zacheus: Today I need to go into your house!

5.2. Nicodemus: You're a master in Israel and you don't know that?

5.3. Murderer on the cross: Today you will be with me in paradise!

5.4. Fear not, I am with you +

5.5. Pro nobis – pro me!

6. With this background and introduction, allow me to suggest a short outline of a sermon on this passage from the epistle of St. Paul to his student, brother in the ministry and bishop of congregations:

6.1. Goal: Praise, thanks and glory to the triune God for his doings (Example of St. Paul: Enabled, called and installed him into this service.

6.2. Malady: Our sinfulness (Example of St. Paul): blasphemer, persecutor & injurious.

6.3. Means: IX mission into this world. He is our saviour, our redeemer, he has us reborn through water and the HS (Holy Baptism), new creations – like new born babies! Therefore thank, praise and glorify him. (Example of St. Paul: Longsuffering, mercy, overflowing grace in love and faith, and thus constitute an example for others.

Hymns: 480,1-3 (Beginning) 611: Chief of sinners though I be... (Regular Hymn) 480,4-5 (Close of service)