

1 Timothy 1:1-11

Subject: False Teachers

One Point: The goal is love

To get the full background of 1 Timothy go to the refuel website: www.usfbcm.com/refuel

1 and 2 Timothy, Titus – the pastoral epistles

Purpose of Pastoral Epistles: 1. To provide a handbook for church leaders, strengthening the authority of ordained ministers. 2. To alert church leaders to the need for opposing growing heresy. 3. To assert a Pauline tradition among the churches of the Aegean area.

Purpose of 1 Timothy: 1. To direct Timothy to give vigorous personal opposition to the false doctrine developing in Ephesus (1:3). 2. To instruct Timothy about the kind of behavior that should characterize Ephesian believers as members of “God’s household. (3:15)”

Setting is in Ephesus: Kind of like an older minister talking to a younger minister dealing with church issues: False Doctrines, Worship, Qualified leaders, and Materialism. Written between AD 62 and 64 shortly after Paul was released from Rome’s prison. Paul had spent three years in Ephesus, building up the church (Acts 19) but the church still needed some directions so he left Timothy in charge there.

Timothy’s Father was Greek and his mother was Jewish (Acts 16:1) However, Timothy learned the Scriptures from his mom and grandma (2 Tim 1:5). Paul met Timothy in Lystra (part of modern day Turkey) when Paul visited there (Acts 14:6 and 16:1). This is when Paul recruited Timothy to come with him on his missionary journeys.

1 Timothy 1:1-11

v. 1 – Authorship is Paul

v. 2 – Writing to Timothy his true son in the faith. Paul had enough confidence in Timothy to entrust a struggling church to him. He trusted him to teach sound doctrine which is a major theme throughout the Pastoral Epistles. Timothy means “one who honors God.” Timothy was most likely in his late teens to early twenties but was known for his godliness. (Acts 16:2) Not only that, 2 Timothy 1:7 tells us that he was shy and in constant need of affirmation. Finally he constantly suffered from a stomach problem in 1 Tim 5:23.

Paul-Barnabus-Timothy

v. 3 – Paul warned about the false teachings back in Acts 20. False teachings were: 1. Elitism (similar to/beginning of Gnosticism) the attitude that only a few with special knowledge would be saved. 2. Idealism – the teaching that all matter was evil (anything created). 3. Fascination with myths and Genealogies. (Legends and fanciful stories manufactured from elements of Judaism that deal with fictitious interpretations of OT genealogical lists.)

v. 5 – The purpose of the command from vs. 3-4 is to call people to true salvation in Christ which results in love that comes from 1. A pure heart (cleansed from sin). 2. A good conscience (freedom from guilt, which is the mind’s security system that leads to conviction and action, inner awareness

of the moral quality of personal actions.) and 3. A sincere faith (full assurance, genuine trust and confidence in God).

Hebrews 10:22 - let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

v. 6 – These “talks” are pointless and have no logical end. Essentially they are irrelevant and will not edify any part of the body of Christ. Some people call them “fruitless discussions.”

v. 7 – The false teachers wanted to be known and have the same recognition as Jewish Rabbis because of their wisdom. So they made up false doctrines to make a legalistic heresy that offered salvation by works. Kind of like some modern day cults.

v. 9 – Romans 3:23 – all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God (Gospel) even though the law seems like it was for the worst of the worst, sin is sin to God. We all fall under the law because we aren't 100% perfect. The law shows us where we fall short.

The false teachers had misunderstood the law completely. They thought that we could personally achieve self-righteousness without God. However, the law was to show our need of God and plead for His mercy.

- Law-breakers and rebels – disregard for any law or standard
- Ungodly and sinful – no regard for anything sacred
- Unholy and irreligious – indifferent to what is right
- All these are in regard to the first half of the Ten Commandments and our relationship with God.

v. 10 – These sins are in violation of the second half of the Ten Commandments. They deal with relationships among people. Perverts – *arsenokoitēs* (*sodomoties/homosexuals*)
“Sound doctrine” – *hygiainō*- that which is healthy or wholesome. This is a medical metaphor that contrasts healthy doctrine with the sickly, unhealthy teachings of the heretics. Sound doctrine is the kind of teaching that produces spiritual life and growth.

v. 11 – The glorious Gospel – Paul essentially just told us elements of the Gospel – Love (the world before sin), holiness (God's hatred of sin), justice (demand of punishment for violation of His law) and grace (forgiveness of sin).

Entrusted – God entrusted the spread of the Gospel to Paul, which he took very seriously.

So What

So what do we get out of all this? We learn that the false doctrines of the time are still relevant to today. Check out what John Stott says about truth “Contemporary culture is being overtaken and submerged by the spirit of postmodernism, which declares that there is no such thing as objective or universal truth; that all so-called truth is purely subjective, being culturally conditioned; and that therefore we have all our own truth, which has as much right to respect as anybody else's.”

Truth is something that can be so vague today – even some professors make you wonder if they even believe what they are teaching right? You want to believe only what you think is right, but at the same time we know what truth is based on.

The false teachers of the day constantly were supporting knowledge, evil, and mythological stories. The way to combat these today and respond to them is to know that 1. Salvation is through faith, not knowledge. 2. The goodness of God's creation (and Christ's incarnation). 3. The sufficiency of Biblical history.

Paul gives us some ways of determining a false teacher:

1. Look at their understanding of Scripture – is it Biblically sound? (Scripture confirms Scripture) Do they accurately handle the Word of truth?
2 Tim 2:15 – “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”
2. Examine their goals – Do they seek to love, honor and glorify God? Or do they pursue self-love, material wealth, or personal happiness? Does their message speak of purity of heart, a good conscience and non-hypocritical faith?
3. Examine their motives – humble or selfless? Or do they seek preeminence?
4. Examine the effect of their teaching – Do their followers understand clearly the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Do they define the Gospel properly? Do they use the law properly? Or do they promote works based righteousness?

vs. 4-5 – love is a choice that is characterized by self-denial and self-sacrifice for the benefit of others and is the mark of a true Christian

John 13:35 – “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

In contrast, false doctrines produces only conflict and always results in disputes.

1 Tim 6:3-5 – “If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, ⁴he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions ⁵ and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.”

The goal is love – Then we will have 1. A pure heart (cleansed from sin). 2. a good conscience (freedom from guilt, which is the mind's security system that leads to conviction and action, inner awareness of the moral quality of personal actions.) 3. and a sincere faith (full assurance, genuine trust and confidence in God).

When we focus on these three things – the result will be sound doctrine which is a love for nothing but God.

Judaism Gnosticism (Judiastic legalism) – humans couldn't enjoy full knowledge of God and fellowship with Him as a result.

Could also address asceticism – disparaged marriage and certain types of food. Similar to those in Colosse

John Stott – “It is particularly noteworthy that sins which contradict the law (as breaches of the Ten Commandments) are also contrary to the sound doctrine of the Gospel. So the moral standards of the gospel do not differ from the moral standards of the law. We must not therefore imagine that because we have embraced the gospel we may now contradict the law! To be sure, we have been released from the law's condemnation so that we are no longer “under” it in that sense. But God sent his Son to die for us and now puts his Spirit within us in order that the righteous

requirement of the law may be fulfilled in us. There is no antithesis in the way of salvation, since the law condemns, while the gospel justifies.”