

I TIMOTHY, CHAPTER I

By

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SECTION I. SALUTATION (INTRODUCTORY MATTERS) 1:1-2

I. INTRODUCTION 1:1-2

A. Paul begins by signing his name.

1. He gives his position--that of an apostle of Christ Jesus.

a. Apostle--"One sent forth"; here, it means one commissioned by Christ.

b. Here Paul states that he is one who has been sent forth by Christ Himself.

c. He realized the importance of his mission and wants all to know his authority.

2. He tells how he became an apostle.

a. His apostleship was commanded.

1. By God the Savior--Gal. 1:15-17

2. And Jesus our Hope--Col. 1:27 and Heb. 6:19-20

3. Paul's conversion account----Acts 9:1ff

b. Paul, in being commissioned and commanded by God and Christ, has the backing of the supreme authority.

B. Paul also states the name of the one to whom he writes this letter (as he does in II Timothy and Titus).

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 1

1. He addresses the letter to Timothy.
 - a. Paul's child in the faith.
 - b. How many spiritual children does each of us have?
 - c. How many grandchildren?
 2. He extends greeting of
 - a. Grace (charis) -- Greek's way of addressing one another.
 - b. Peace (eirana)--Hebrew's way of greeting.
 - c. Mercy (eleos)--That quality that holds one another together.
 3. He gives the source of his greeting.
 - a. God the Father
 - b. Jesus our Lord
 - c. Only with these two can real peace and grace be achieved. Only by these two can we have the MERCY that blends people together.
- C. Paul did not assert his apostolic authority to impress Timothy, but to make the Ephesian false teachers sensitive to the danger in which they incurred if they rejected the charges and admonitions which, by the commandment of God and of Christ, the apostle ordered Timothy to deliver to them.
- D. Paul clearly states he is under the authority of God and Christ and wishes the best for Timothy. As we continue in this epistle we will find the instructions to Timothy very relevant to our needs today. So, this introduction, let it read in verse 2 "..... unto

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 1

Timothy (and _____)." This will make for a more honest study.

- E. Now, some of you women may be thinking, "Why should I be in this class when we are going to discuss evangelists, elders and deacons?" The answer to that may be summed up like this; your support of the evangelists, elders and deacons is vital. You must know how to select, in a wise manner these individuals as you are a part of God's Church. These three areas are not all that is covered. You will find that I & II Timothy and Titus have a great meaning for women, as well as for men. Therefore, I ask you to enter this study as eagerly as any other member of this class.

SECTION II. PAUL'S CONCERN FOR SOUND DOCTRINE. 1:3-11

I. PAUL WARNS OF THE DANGER OF FALSE DOCTRINE BEING TAUGHT. 3-11

- A. Paul urges Timothy to remember the responsibilities given him by Paul at Ephesus. V. 3
1. Charge men not to teach destructive doctrines.
 - a. These seem to have been Judaizers and members of the Ephesian church.
 - b. In not naming the men involved Paul demonstrates his love.
 - c. By not mentioning names he still leaves a way for them to return to God's truth.
 2. They were not to follow fables. V. 4
 - a. Titus 1:14, is thought to support the fact that these false teachers were Jews.
 - b. The Word "fable" is translated:

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 1

1. speech
 2. narrative
 3. story
 4. fiction
 5. falsehood
- c. A sample of such fables is found in the BOOK OF JUBILEES. "The sacred narrative of our canonical book of Genesis is embellished, at times almost beyond recognition. Thus, we now learn that the sabbath was observed already by the archangels, that the angels also practiced circumcision, that Jacob never tricked anybody, etc." I Timothy by Hendriksen, p. 59
- d. "Now there is, indeed a legitimate place for the exercise of the gift of the imagination. There is room for dramatization, yes, even for fables and fairy tales. Grown-ups as well as children can enjoy Hans Andersen's "Fir Tree" and can take its lesson to heart. But one who begins to mix sacred history with fiction and this for the purpose of theatrical effect, gross enjoyment, intoxicating thrill, or the satisfaction of vain curiosity, tampers with the very essence and purpose of the inspired record." (Ibid, ps. 59,60)
- e. The comparison is between Jewish fables and the Gospel of God.
3. They were not to engage in endless genealogies.
- a. The Jews prided themselves on tracing their "family tree" back to Abraham.
 - b. The Jewish priests HAD to be able to trace their genealogy to Aaron or they could not be a priest.

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 1

- c. These two reasons alone would give cause for fabricated ancestry and undue pride.
 - d. We, too, should obey this charge, for tracing our genealogy demands precious time which is wasted in endless activity rather than giving our time and effort to glorifying God!
- B. Paul states the reasons for avoiding different doctrines, fables and genealogies.
1. They bring about unanswerable questions.
 2. They destroy our stewardship of faith in God.
 3. When we waste our time in these habits God loses that time and our faith is weakened.
 4. We become poor stewards because we do not apply our faith to the proper end.
- C. The far reaching effect of the charge! v. 5
1. Paul states three conditions that will be the result of the charge he gave to Timothy.
 - a. "Love out of a pure heart."
 1. Agape love.
 2. Not "questionings".
 3. Matthew 12:34.
 4. A regenerated heart.
 - b. "A good conscience".
 1. I Peter 3:16 & 21.
 2. II Timothy 1:3.

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 1

3. A good conscience comes from obedience to God's Word.

c. "Faith unfeigned".

1. II Timothy 2:22.

2. Romans 12:9-21.

3. I Peter 1:22.

2. "Paul wants Timothy to know that he is not simply to authoritatively contradict such false teachers, but to, in the correction, produce pure hearts, good consciences, and unhypocritical faith". I Timothy. by Don DeWalt, College Press, p. 36.

D. The result of not following the charge. v.6.

1. Paul wants Timothy to see the results of not following his exhortation by bringing to mind the actions of some who do not love; who do not have a clear conscience, or do not have honest faith.

2. As we begin this section we must realize these are actions of real people, not a figment of Paul's imagination!

3. Because they decide to turn from the charge to the following:

a. Vain talkers--the words they speak are worthless, or they talk about worthless things.

b. Desire to be in the spotlight of glory, vs. 7

1. They want to teach the law.

2. But they do not understand what they are teaching.

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 1

3. They are confident in areas in which they really know nothing.
 4. They don't know the law, but they really know their opinions about the law.
 5. "They failed to understand the very subjects on which they lectured with such cock-sureness". N. T. Commentary, ps. 63-64, by Hendriksen.
- E. Paul speaks of that in which he and Timothy can have complete confidence. v. 8
1. The law is good.
 - a. The best commentary on this is found in Romans 7:7-13.
 - b. It is sin, not God's law, that causes the problems in one's life.
 - c. It is man's use of the law that brings specific results in individual lives.
 2. Paul states the purpose of the law. v. 9
 - a. The law was not written for the righteous.
 - b. The law was given for the:
 1. Lawless--those who respected no law at all.
 2. Unruly--those who sought to satisfy their selfish desires..
 3. Ungodly--those who might be good citizens on earth, but reject the God of the universe by word and/or deed.
 4. Sinners--any who disobey God's will.
I John 3:4

5. Unholy--lacking the attributes of God.
6. Profane--"The one who spoils sacred things, who desecrates God's Day, disobeys His laws and belittles His worship. This individual soils everything he touches". Barclay, p. 38
7. Murderers (smiters) of:

Fathers--Any failure to honor one's
& parents is the meaning
Mothers here. From the slightest
disappointment to actually striking the parent
with blows severe enough
to inflict bodily damage,
yea even death.
8. Manslayers--"The original term, however, refers to any one who wrongfully takes the life of another. It has reference to any and all homicides". Hendriksen, p. 68.
9. Fornicators--One who engages in illicit sexual intercourse. v. 10.
10. Abusers of themselves with men--sodomites, homosexuals. See Lev. 18:22.
11. Menstealers--(to catch by the foot) trafficking in the slave market, kidnapping of slaves.
12. Liars--speaking not the truth. Rev. 21:8
13. False Swearers--perjury. Lying when one has promised to tell the truth.
14. And if there be any other thing contrary to the sound doctrine.-- This is an all-inclusive statement to cover the areas the above mentioned

specifics missed!

3. "Many commentaries see a comparison between this list and the Ten Commandments. Note this table of comparison as given by Homer Kent:

The first table of the Decalogue is covered in general terms:

I Timothy 1:9,10

Exodus 20:1-17

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Lawless and disobedient | 1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. |
| Ungodly and sinners | 2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. |
| Unholy and profane | 3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. |
| | 4. Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy. |

By these three pairs of words the second table is covered more completely:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Father-smiters & mother-smiters | 5. Honor thy father & thy mother. |
| Murderers | 6. Thou shalt not kill. |
| Fornicators, Sodomites | 7. Thou shalt not commit adultery. |
| Kidnappers | 8. Thou shalt not steal. |
| Liars, Perjurers | 9. Thou shalt not |

bear false witness.

Any other thing

10. Thou shalt not covet.

*Don DeWelt, ps.
38, 39 I Timothy.

F. In his charge to Timothy, Paul tells the manner in which sound doctrine is effective.

1. "Paul has just stated that the proper use of the law is in perfect agreement to, and a part of, the Good News entrusted to Paul. The Gospel (or the Faith) would teach that sinners are to be brought under the judgment of God by the law. When they are thus shown to be guilty and condemned before God's righteous law, they will hear with eagerness the Good News that "Christ died to save sinners". (Ibid. p. 39).
2. "Here is a vivid picture of the atmosphere in which the ancient Church grew up. It was against an infection like that that the writer of the Pastorals sought to protect the Christians at large." Barclay, on Timothy, p. 40.
3. Too often we become restless and dissatisfied with the congregation we serve and long for the "productive years", of the ease of evangelism and perfection of churches of the New Testament period. But when reality sets in, we realize they had no easier time than we. FOR WHAT THEN WAS THEIR SUCCESS? THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST BEING PREACHED!!
4. Notice the aspects of the splendid Gospel which made it so potent.
 1. "It is a GLORIOUS GOSPEL: that is to say, it is glorious good news. It is good news of forgiveness for past sins

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 1

and of power to conquer sin in the days to come, good news of God's mercy, God's cleansing and God's grace.

It is good news WHICH COMES FROM GOD. The Christian Gospel is not a discovery made by man; it is something revealed by God. It does not offer only the help of man; it offers the power of God.

That good news COMES THROUGH MEN. It was entrusted to Paul to bring it to others. God makes His offer and He needs His messengers. The real Christian is the person who has himself closed with the offer of God and has realized that he cannot keep such good news to himself but must share it with others who have not yet found it." Barclay, on Timothy, p. 41.

2. This Gospel is sound doctrine (health giving) because it gives health to our spiritual lives!!!

II. PAUL'S GRATITUDE TO CHRIST FOR MAKING HIM A PROCLAIMER OF SOUND DOCTRINE. Verses 12-17.

- A. "This section appears to be a digression"... but it is not. Paul has said that the end of the charge was love out of a pure heart, and a good conscience and faith unfeigned." These qualities Paul obtained from the "Good News" or the Sound Doctrine. Timothy can now present to these law teachers an example of the results of the right use of the Law and the Gospel. Paul is saying, "If Christ can change me, and He did, then He can change anyone; preach it! Cease dabbling in law speculation." I Timothy, by Don DeWelt, p. 41.
- B. Paul expresses his gratitude to Christ. v. 12.

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 1

1. He is thankful that Christ "enabled" him to proclaim the sound Doctrine.
 - a. The enabling power of God and Christ is the positive force in Paul's ministry.
 - b. I Cor. 15:10; II Cor. 12:9; and Phil. 4:13
 2. He is thankful that Christ considered him trustworthy to be a steward of the Gospel.
 3. He is thankful because Christ appointed him to His service.
- C. "How wondrously precious must Christ have been to Paul that he could thank Him for calling him into a life of privation, imprisonment and death. And yet he was glad to share in this service." Ibid. p. 42
- D. Paul gives further reasons for his gratitude. V. 13
1. I was a blasphemer
 - a. I spoke against Christ and His Church.
 - b. YET I AM FORGIVEN BY THAT CHRIST!
 2. I was a persecutor
 - a. I tried with all my being to tear apart Christ's church.
 - b. YET I AM FORGIVEN BY THAT CHRIST!
 3. I was injurious
 - a. υβριστος hubristes--"a violent, insolent man, is translated insolent in I Tim. 1:13" An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words by W.E.Vine ,p.261
 - b. "It indicates a kind of arrogant sad-

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 1

ism; it describes the man who is out to inflict pain for the sheer joy of inflicting it." Barclay, I Timothy, p. 45

- c. This was the man Saul before he met the Master and became the Apostle Paul!
 - d. And forgiven by that Christ!
 - e. The Christ of Calvary does, indeed, change lives when given the opportunity.
4. I received Mercy, "signifies, in general, to feel sympathy with the misery of another, and especially sympathy manifested in act. Vine, p. 61
- a. Because I did my evil deeds ignorantly.
 - b. He was not fighting something he knew to be true. He was fighting for what he thought was right.
5. Because of my sinfulness, God's grace was manifest. v. 14
- a. Notice the meaning of grace:
Divine influence on the heart and its reflection in the life.
 - b. Paul is saying that faith and love are the outward expression of the divine influence on the heart!
 - c. He also states that Jesus Christ is the source of such love and faith.
 - d. Paul responded with like faith and love, a completely different man than is pictured in verse 3.
 - e. Since Christ has done so much for Paul, because he surrendered, think how much He can do for you!

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 1

D. Paul states the entire situation in a nut shell.
v. 15.

1. "Faithful is the saying" is found in five different passages in the Pastoral Epistles.
 - a. I Tim. 3:1, 4:8-9, II Tim. 2:11-13.
 - b. These are principles that do not change.
2. Verse 15 states the very essence of the gospel story as does I Cor. 15:1-4.
 - a. Christ the Savior
 - b. Man the sinner
3. In this passage we are given the mission of Christ to this world!
 - a. HE CAME TO SAVE SINNERS!
 - b. If anyone will not confess his sins and let Christ wash them away with His blood by baptism, then Christ's mission to earth is a failure with that individual.
 - c. His mission depends on you to be successful!
4. After stating the mission of Christ, Paul states his own position--that of a sinner? NO, as far as Paul is concerned he is the CHIEF OF SINNERS.
5. In no way was Paul led from the truth of his relationship with Christ.
6. In realizing the fact of being a sinner he has placed himself within the area of Christ's mission!
7. He is now a saved sinner by the grace of God.

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 1

8. May we all realize that unless we honestly admit that we are sinners Christ cannot work within us.
- E. Paul sees the purpose for God's mercy in his life. Verse 16
1. That the longsuffering of Christ be demonstrated to the world.
 2. That you and I have the example of success of Christ's great mission in redeeming lost man.
 3. That in seeing the example, and accepting Christ's way, we too have eternal life with Him.
 4. Paul is saying that no one is too stubborn, sinful or ignorant to receive this mercy.
- F. Paul concludes with the great gospel doxology. V. 17
1. Now to the King.
 - a. ETERNAL - without Beginning or End.
 - b. IMMORTAL - Deity
 - c. INVISIBLE - Spirit quality, exceeding the temporal sphere.
 2. THE ONLY GOD - As opposed to many gods and religions.
 3. To Him we ascribe all honor, and glory forever and forever!
 4. What a triumphant ring Paul closes this section with!
 5. Can you not, also, feel this majesty of the One of whom Paul is speaking?

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 1

III. PAUL CHARGES TIMOTHY TO TEACH THE TRUTH. V. 18-20.

- A. What Paul has said between verse 3 and verse 18 should prepare Timothy to deliver the charge to accomplish the purpose for which it was given. v. 18
- B. Paul reminds Timothy of the prophecies which have prepared him for this work.
 1. He wants Timothy to remember that these prophecies will help him war the good warfare.
 2. Using the Bible to explain itself, we would turn to I Tim. 4:14, I Tim. 6:12 and II Tim. 2:2.
- C. He charges Timothy to fight a good fight. v. 19
 1. This would be done by keeping
 - a. The faith - Jude 3
 - b. A good conscience - maintained upon obedience to God's Word.
 2. He tells Timothy that the result of turning from the faith and good conscience is spiritual disaster!
 3. He cites a case of such action. v. 20
 - a. Hymeneus - II Tim. 2:17
 - b. Alexander - II Tim. 4:14
 4. Paul's action was "church discipline".
 - a. He put them in Satan's hands.
 - b. That they might learn not to blaspheme.
 5. By his own example he is encouraging Timothy to take a strong stand against those who

I TIMOTHY - CHAPTER 1

reject the faith and lead others astray!

SUMMARY:

Looking at chapter one we quickly learn that Paul cares for his child in the faith. He also cares for those in the church and those out of the church. This is shown by his warning of the danger of false doctrine being taught.

He is very precise in naming the things that should not be taught. He even gives a description of false teachers.

Paul is not disappointed with his job. In fact, he states his gratitude to Christ for allowing him to be a proclaimer of that which produces spiritual health.

Paul states his horrible past to magnify the power, glory and grace of Christ. Paul states the fact that Christ came to save sinners, of whom he is the worst. Then he praises God in the highest terms possible.

As he concludes the chapter he reminds Timothy of his responsibilities and abilities that he might fight the good fight. Paul states it is possible to fall away. He names two men and indicates they have committed spiritual suicide.

We should be just as concerned about false doctrine as was Paul. Let's lift up God and Christ. Let's encourage one another in the battle that souls be won. That Christ have the victory, not Satan.