

## 1 TIMOTHY 1:1-11

### INTRODUCTION

Last week: introduction: i) when written? ii) why written? iii) relevance to us?

This week: 1 Tim 1:1-11, 3 sections / themes:

- a) Greeting - v1-2      b) Fruits of sound doctrine - v3-7      c) Purpose of law - v3-11

### 1. GREETING

v1-2. Q1. What difference does it make to the relevance of this letter that it is written by an apostle?

'apostle' - one sent representing someone else with their full authority.

Paul is 'apostle of Christ Jesus' - sent by Christ and speaks with full authority of Christ.

Christ's apostles were chosen by Christ himself, witnesses of resurrection - role: Eph 2:19-20

Paul was last of apostles - 1 Cor 15:8. Made apostle 'by command of God'.

Paul making great claim: these are effectively Christ's own words. Binding authority of king.

'God our Saviour': asserting God alone is Saviour - not Roman Empire who now showing great power - calling people to put all confidence in them & their might. Paul's confidence in his Saviour God.

'and Christ Jesus our hope': taking them back to core of gospel in Christ Jesus - he is his apostle.

**Paul is raising the stakes:** make them sit up & listen, shift it away from silly speculations. If you ignore me - cutting self from God who is Saviour & Christ who is our hope.

Application to church in Ephesus: need to listen to what head of church saying through Paul.

Application to us: need to listen to what head of our church is saying through his apostle.

v2: 'Timothy my child in the faith': Timothy was converted through Paul himself, as were some of other leaders & members in church. Paul giving Timothy the edge - he is true son, an heir of Paul, whereas false teachers were not sons of Paul in that sense. Paul is seeking to give Timothy extra authority for difficult work he has to do: v3.

'Grace, mercy & peace': standard greeting - all central things we have received from God in gospel.

'from God the Father & Christ Jesus our Lord' - puts two on equal footing - clearly believes in Trinity.

**Summary: Greeting not just telling us from Paul to Timothy, summons to sit up & take note!**

### 2. FRUITS OF SOUND DOCTRINE

v3-7. Paul wants Timothy to stay in Ephesus (v3) to promote sound doctrine, as opposed to these dangerous distractions (v4) that are becoming an all-absorbing passion by some of other elders.

Q2. What 3 things should sound Christian doctrine produce in us that in turn should lead to love? v5

i) A pure heart: heart is centre spiritual person - naturally not pure, gospel changes & purifies heart.

ii) A good conscience: not as in 'doesn't accuse us', but in sense that it works properly.

iii) A sincere faith: genuine, real faith - living, active and impacting our day to day lives.

Paul's point: contrast between true & false can be seen on effect it has on people's lives. They just

doing fascinating mind puzzles that never end, mainly speculation, just produce church full of arguments. Proper Christian teaching is always purposeful: v4b 'stewardship from God' (NKJV: 'godly edification'). God given us his word, not for entertainment or academic studies but that we might be saved through Jesus Christ and know how to keep our lives in good order to please him. False teachers: lost sight of this aim, wandered into bypass meadows, Godliness of church would suffer. Timothy's aim: bring them back to be focused on right things again - 3 things that lead to love. **Application: We need preaching & teaching that will have this effect upon our hearts & lives.** Challenge to teachers: do we remember this for every message? Will it change people? Does it have a point? Challenge to listeners: Do you come to just have your mind filled? or heart & life changed to?

### 3. PURPOSE OF LAW

v6-11. Again a contrast between what false teachers were doing with law & its proper or correct use.

#### Q3. How were those teaching a different doctrine misusing the law? v3-7

Become a subject of vain discussion (v6). Pointless speculations. v7: trying to Bible teachers & expositors, but they do not even understand their own subject. Very dangerous for health of church.

#### Q4. What is the correct use of the law as defined by this passage? v8-11

Remember whole question of law is complex, and the law has more than one purpose, so 1 passage is not definitive - we are interesting in this passage. Key phrase: (v9) 'the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless & disobedient...' What does it mean? Who is law for?

'Just' = righteous. The list that follows (v9-10) is therefore a list of 'unrighteous' people & how their lifestyle is characterised. Law is not for people who are naturally righteous (and therefore keeping the law) but for those whose natural tendency is to break it.

Right way to use law: lawfully - as law! As definition of righteousness & unrighteousness - not as a fascinating intellectual puzzle. Ultimate aim of law is godliness by defining what sin is.

What law is Paul referring to here? Law in general. All moral obligations as expressed in gospel: 'whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine'. Paul uses 10 commandments as a pattern, but content is his own summary of lawless & disobedient people & behaviour.

v11 - good summary: no contradiction between law & gospel. Because I am a gospel man I must use law for its proper purpose of defining righteousness, pointing people to gospel that justifies.

**Application: Make sure we use law, lawfully - it has a gospel purpose.**

**CONCLUSION:** Is sound doctrine and its fruit of gospel godliness our great aim as a church?

### Questions for 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Wednesday 29 January 03

1. In verse 13 Paul tells us the reason God was able to be merciful to him, what was it?
2. What does verse 14 tell us about grace? (Way it comes, what it brings with it, who to be found in.)
3. Why did Paul view himself as the foremost (or worst) sinner ever? v15
4. According to verse 16, why was God merciful to Paul?