

Calvary Chapel of El Paso Morning Ladies' Bible Study – Timothy
September 13, 2022 – Lesson 1 – 1 Timothy 1:1-11: The Purpose of the Commandment

*Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me,
in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 1:13*

Introduction

Our first lesson in Timothy begins with the purpose of Paul's instructions to Timothy. This also shows us the purpose of God's Law. Let's read from the quote Warren Weirsbe's introduction to his study of 1 Timothy in our study book, page 1.

The glorious Gospel:

“*glorious*” – here, the glory of the Lord; also worship, praise, honor

“*Gospel*” – good news

This glory is God's alone, as we see in the “Lord's Prayer.”

...thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Matthew 6:13

News – think about all the kinds of news – good and bad, true and untrue. There is much that is bad, especially nowadays! So any good news seems wonderful. But the Good News of the Gospel is glorious with God's glory. There is no other news like it.

In Paul's day and also in ours, various people are offering different “gospels” – different ways to get to God and to live a life that pleases Him. But if it is a different gospel, it is a different god.

Paul had found this glorious Gospel when Jesus got hold of him. Why did Paul grasp and treasure this perfect, unique good news from the Lord so well? Because he had so completely grasped the Law, which cried out for this one and only answer to it. He understood that Jesus came to fulfill the Law with the glorious good news of the Gospel.

[Jesus said] *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets:*

I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Matthew 5:17-18

1 Timothy 1:1-2

Paul – an apostle of Jesus Christ because God appointed him to it.

“*Commandment*” – authority

Paul started the letter this way with authority so that Timothy, though he was young, would have the backing of this leader of the church – by the authority given by God.

We see here our past, present, and future:

Saviour: “past perfect” – done in the past and true always.

Lord: “present perfect” – true every day and forever.

Hope: our future – makes our present secure as well as our future.

Verses 3-7 – purpose of Paul’s instructions

“*Commandment*” – charge, instructions; Paul was instructing Timothy to charge some of the leadership and especially certain teachers there to do 2 things:

“*Charge some*” – Paul was slightly contemptuous here; correction was needed and the errors were serious, so he was blunt.

Verses 3-4 – Timothy was to charge these teachers with two things:

1. Teach no other doctrine (than what Paul had given them)
2. Not pay attention to (1) fables and (2) endless genealogies

What they were really teaching:

“*fables*” – myths

“*endless*” – unfinished

“*genealogies*” – here, the Gnostic genealogies of spirits and “gods”; “Gnostics” think that only they have the true knowledge of spiritual things.

Paul was addressing these seeds of the beginnings of Gnosticism, which these Judaizers mixed with Mosaic Law. “Theosophy” is another word we use today for the mystery religion that thinks they know deeper things than others. It involves “mind science” – that people can use their minds to control the world. Elements of it are more common in the Church today than we realize. Two examples are the “declaring” or “confession” of what is wanted by those in the Word of Faith Movement, and the excess interest in angelic beings of some who emphasize spiritual experiences.

Verses 5-7 – The results? Endless questions, arguing, babbling – and damaging false doctrine and heresy if it continues.

Verse 5 – this isn’t the love of God! Here we see the purpose of Paul’s instructions to Timothy: to bring God’s love to them.

Verses 6-7 – Though they were legalistic and wanting rules to follow, they simply argued a lot and did not really understand what they were saying.

“*vain jangling*” – empty babbling, endless talk

They talked endlessly about the law and wanted to be experts in it, but they had no idea of its purpose.

Verses 8-11

Verse 8 – Use the law lawfully: it is for those who are not righteous. God’s law brings people to salvation (verse 11). Earthly laws are to keep order in our world.

Verses 9-10 – long list of lawless and disobedient; these cover all the Ten Commandments. Jesus fulfilled the Law. He paid the price, as we see in the glorious Gospel. This is the glorious Good News that through Jesus Christ alone we are saved and do not have to try to satisfy the Law.

So Paul was writing about these Judaizers that if they want to use the Law, here is the true Law of God and of man. Do not try to add to or take away from it with fables or other spiritual things that are not true. Do not try to use it to perfect believers or to please God. These would-be teachers of the Law actually bring themselves down from the Gospel of grace to lawlessness.

Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. Galatians 5:4

Verse 5 – the purpose of Paul’s instruction to Timothy: God’s love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and faith unfeigned (honest).

Revelation 2:1-7 shows us that Ephesus ended up with lots of great teaching, but Jesus told them that they had left their first love. Perhaps they did not fully learn the lesson that Paul was giving them here in 1 Timothy 1:5. So let’s really take that to heart – the true foundation for all we are and do in our walk with the Lord.

Note that Jesus spoke those words of Revelation chapter 2 about 30 years after Paul had written to Timothy. The believers at Ephesus had strayed from the teachings of Paul, Timothy and others. It shows us the importance of keeping our eyes on Jesus.

*...keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.
1Timothy 6:14*

From this we see that it is also important to teach our young people, the next generation, to truly love the Lord, too.

We will explore 1 Timothy 1:5 more during discussion time, but for now let’s turn to page 4 of our Study Book and read the scriptures. Psalm 24:4; Acts 24:16; and Hebrews 11:6.

Verse 11 – All is in the glorious Gospel. There is no other like it. The glorious Gospel frees the Christian from the Law. Only God’s grace can save us and purify us. Wiersbe is correct:

The Law is the diagnosis.

The Gospel is the remedy.

14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. 2 Thessalonians 2:14-15