

## Study 1- 1 Timothy

Read 1 Timothy 1:1-11

### Prescription for a Healthy Church -“Beware of False Teachers”

Timothy wanted to resign, and Paul’s first burden was to encourage him to stay on and finish the task. Almost every Christian worker has wanted to quit at one time or another. Paul encourages young Timothy in this chapter by reminding him of his position before God and of the fact that God would see him through to victory.

Timothy was not at Ephesus because Paul put him there. It was God who entrusted him with the ministry in that important city. Just as God had committed a ministry to Paul’s trust (1:11), He had given Timothy a special stewardship, and He expected him to be faithful. The false teachers at Ephesus were ministering their own program, not a stewardship that God had given them. There were false teachers at Ephesus who were trying to make a name for themselves as teachers of the Law but who did not know what they were talking about. They had turned away from the truth of the Word and were listening to fables and endless genealogies, raising more questions than they could answer. What a picture of some teachers today! Their ministries did not build up Christians or the local church, but instead promoted arguments and divisions. In vs. 5, Paul contrasts the false teachers and their ministry with that of the true steward of God’s grace. The object of God’s steward is to see people love one another with a love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. But these false teachers were promoting endless divisions and empty talk!

Paul explains to Timothy the significance of the Law. “God did not give the Law to save people,” he points out, “but to show people how much they need to be saved.” God had entrusted Paul and Timothy with a glorious Gospel, not a system of laws. “Sound doctrine” literally means “healthy teaching,” that is, teaching that promotes spiritual health. Our word “hygiene” comes from this Greek word. Read 1 Timothy 1:1-2 and answer the following questions.

### Questions:

1. As this letter opens, how does Paul describe himself? Why do you think he does this?
2. Who does Paul address this letter to? What is the importance of how Paul addresses this person?
3. What is important about each of the items mentioned?
4. How would you define:
  - A. Grace?
  - B. Mercy?
  - C. Peace?

Read 1 Timothy 1:3-5 and answer the following questions.

5. According to vs. 4-5 what is one way to determine if a teaching is valid and true? What is one way to determine if a teaching is false and harmful?

6. What does Paul say is his purpose in instruction for all Believers?

7. How would you define:

A. Pure heart?

B. Good conscience?

C. Sincere faith?

Read 1 Timothy 1:6-7 and answer the following questions.

8. Timothy is encouraged not to waste time speculating about fruitless topics. He is to focus on things that will further God's kingdom. In verse 6, what do you think Paul means by the words "some have turned aside to idle talk or (useless arguing)"?

9. Who is Paul describing in vs.7? What does he tell us about them?

10. Have you ever come across someone who fits this mold? If so, describe them. How did you deal with the situation?

Read 1 Timothy 1:8-11 and answer the following questions.

11. How do we know that the law is good? How do we use it properly? How can it be used improperly?

12. What does Paul mean in vs. 11 by, "according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God"? Describe this "glorious gospel" in your own words.

13. No believer plans to stray or drift away from the truth, but it does happen. What can you do to ensure that you won't wonder away from the truth? Do you have a plan to make sure you won't find yourself miles away from where you want to be spiritually? Share your thoughts.

The following five questions can help you apply God's Word to your life.

When you study a passage ask yourself:

- Is there a sin for me to avoid?
- Is there a promise for me to trust?
- Is there an example for me to follow?
- Is there a command for me to obey?
- How can this passage increase my knowledge of God?