

1 Timothy 1:1-11 – Intro: Discipleship

Michael Silva / April 23, 2017

Opening: Joke: LOOK WHO'S BOSS

1. A company, feeling it was time for a shake-up, hires a new CEO. This new boss is determined to rid the company of all slackers.
2. On a tour of the facilities, the CEO notices a guy leaning on a wall. The room is full of workers and he thinks this is his chance to show everyone he means business!
3. The CEO walks up the guy and asks, "*And how much money do you make a week?*"
4. Undaunted, the young fellow looks at him and replies, "*I make \$600 a week. Why?*"
5. The CEO then hands the guy \$600 in cash and screams, "*Here's a week's pay, now GET OUT and don't come back!*"
6. Feeling pretty good about his first demonstration of power, the CEO looks around the room and asks, "*Does anyone want to tell me what that slacker did here?*"
7. With a sheepish grin, one of the other workers mutters, "*He's the pizza delivery guy.*"

Transition: We are beginning **A NEW JOURNEY** - Today we begin a new study in a New Testament book that has a lot to say about leadership. 1 Timothy.

1. What **character qualities** should a leader in the church have.
2. What should be the leaders **focus**?
3. What should the leader and the church be on **guard against**?
4. No, it doesn't address what to do if you mistakenly fire the pizza delivery man, who doesn't even work for you.
 - a) But it does provide valuable insight into how the church should be organized and run.

Book Intro: 1 Timothy, along with 2 Timothy and Titus are letters originally written to the specific person name, Timothy and Titus who were both pastors.

1. Therefore, these three books are often called The **Pastoral Epistles**.
 - a) If you have a desire to be a pastor or church leader, then these books are **prerequisites**.
 - b) But the content of these books is **not limited to** church leaders alone.
 - c) They are also **rich resources** for the whole church.

2. Theme of 1 Timothy: **Leadership → Discipleship** – helping others to **grow** in their relationship with Christ. Topics include...
 - a) False doctrine and not being deceived.
 - b) The Gospel and that God saves sinners.
 - c) Continuing in the faith and being an example to others.
 - d) Proper Roles:
 - i) Pray for those in authority over us, including government officials.
 - ii) Leaders in the church.
 - iii) Men and Women in the church.
 - iv) Church leaders and church members.
3. Paul's purpose in writing this letter is to encourage Timothy in **how to deal with false teachers** within the church at Ephesus.
 - a) Paul's instructions are intended to help the church **recognize the difference** between false and true teachers.
 - b) Throughout this letter, we will see that as disciples, we are to be **grounded** in and **guided** by the gospel.
 - c) As the church, we are called to **live out the realities** of the gospel in our lives.
4. Key Verse: **1 Timothy 2:3–4** ³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Let's read our passage: **1 Timothy 1:1-11** (NKJV)ⁱ

And Pray

1 Timothy 1:1 ¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope,

1. Paul always introduces himself, as was the custom of that day, at the beginning of his letter, but this intro is **a little different** from his others.
 - a) First he declares that he is an apostle by **commandment**. The original Greek word for commandment is **ἐπιταγή** (*epitage*), which means **to order or instruct**.
 - i) Paul had not been **asked**, he was **ordered** into ministry.
 - ii) Paul had been **directed and commanded** by Jesus to spread the gospel.

- b) Second, Paul uses the title **our Savior**, which would stand in direct contrast with Roman emperor worship.
 - i) The subjects of Rome were required and often forced to call Caesar their savior.
 - ii) Paul is boldly declaring that God was the true **Savior** through the **Lord Jesus Christ**.
- c) Note that as Christians our **hope** is in **Jesus Christ**.
 - i) We don't know what our **future** holds, but we **know the One who holds** our future.
 - ii) Hope says, Hold On, Pain Ends.

1 Timothy 1:2 ² To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 1. This letter was written to Timothy – his **name** means ‘*One who honors God.*’
 - a) Paul had led Timothy to the faith, likely during Paul's 1st missionary journey.
 - i) This is why Paul calls Timothy his **true son in the faith**.
 - ii) You become a **spiritual father or mother** to those you lead to faith in Christ.
 - b) Timothy's grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice were devout believers and followers of Christ.
 - c) Timothy's dad was Greek (Acts 16:1).
 - d) Timothy became Paul's **disciple, friend, and co-laborer** in the Gospel.
 - e) At the time of this writing, Timothy was the **pastor** of the church in **Ephesus**.
- 2. Again, Paul's **introduction** here is a little different from most of his other letters.
 - a) When writing to the church or believers in a region he says, “**Grace & Peace.**”
 - b) But when he writes to Timothy and Titus he includes “**mercy.**”
 - c) As disciples of Christ, even pastors, **we are still sinners in need of mercy.**
 - d) Including “**mercy**” here helps us to rightly remember **our place** before the Lord.
 - i) We are all **sinners saved by grace.**
- 3. MAP:
 - a) Timothy was from Lystra.
 - b) He was the pastor in Ephesus.
 - c) Paul went to Macedonia.

1 Timothy 1:3-4

³ As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, ⁴ nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.

1. Remain in Ephesus. Question... Was Timothy **thinking about leaving**?

a) Some bible commentators have suggested just that.

b) And that very notion is **not a hard one to believe**. Pastoral discouragement is real and much more prevalent than many realize.

i) Christianity Today reportsⁱⁱ that **1 in 4 pastors** have struggle with **depression**.

ii) C.H. **Spurgeon**, the Prince of Preachers wrestled greatly with depressionⁱⁱⁱ.

(1) Spurgeon was indeed frequently “in heaviness.” Sometimes Spurgeon’s depression was the direct result of his various illnesses, perhaps simply psychologically, and in the case of his gout, probably physiologically as well. Despite this, Spurgeon thought of his own depression as his “worst feature” and once commented that “despondency is not a virtue; I believe it is a vice. I am heartily ashamed of myself for falling into it, but I am sure there is no remedy for it like a holy faith in God.”

(2) Spurgeon comforted himself with the realization that such depression equipped him to minister more effectively: “I would go into the deeps a hundred times to cheer a downcast spirit. It is good for me to have been afflicted, that I might know how to speak a word in season to one that is weary.”

2. So instead of leaving, Timothy was to remain and **charge** some that they teach no other doctrine. What does “**Charge**” mean?

a) It’s a **military** word which means to **command or order**.

i) It was a word that describes a **commanding officer** who was giving strict orders to his subordinates.

ii) Paul was giving Timothy **authority** to take charge over the situation and to get things in the church back in order.

3. Notice the importance given to right **doctrine**.

a) Doctrine is the **commonly accepted beliefs** that are **taught** as a part of **our faith**.

b) If you are **not** taught and do not learn the doctrine of our faith then you are in danger of being **misled** and **drawn away** from the true faith.

c) Paul tells us in Ephesians that we should be **equipped and trained** in the knowledge of Christ... **that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,** - Ephesians 4:14

4. Paul says deal with the **false teachers** AND deal with those who are **listening** to the false teachers.

a) Look in Vs 4 where he speaks of those who **give heed** ... **The listener**.

- b) So those who were giving heed were giving the false teachers a place and position to speak from.
 - c) Moreover, those who were listen were placing themselves in **danger**.
 - i) While **kindness and hospitality are traits** we should aim to have a Jesus's disciples, we are **not** to welcome and entertain false teachers. (See 2 Jn 1:10-11)
5. We must also watch out for and avoid **fables /myths – fanciful, untrue, or even deceptive sayings**.
- a) These fables or myths were often told and used in an attempt to **excuse inappropriate behavior**, things Paul describes in verses 9 and 10 below.
 - b) **Fables** and **endless genealogies** were **silly distractions** and Timothy was charged by Paul to help the believes in Ephesus to not get distracted, derailed, or divided by them...

1 Timothy 1:5 ⁵ Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, *from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,*

- 1. The purpose – the inward workings of the heart and mind. Not just outward observances.
 - a) **Love** from a pure heart.
 - i) Greek word used for love is **ἀγάπη (agape)**. This is the kind of love that is characterized by **self-denial and self-sacrifice** for the benefit of **others**.
 - b) **Good Conscience** – This is the **internal peace** you have when you have done what is good and right.
 - c) **Sincere Faith** – The word sincere means **without wax**, why? Because ancient statue makers would hide their mistakes by using wax to fill spaces.
 - i) With genuine faith you are **not trying to hide** cracks and imperfections.
 - (1) Either Christ removes those cracks, blemishes, and impurities, or He uses you despite them so that either way He gets all the glory.
- 2. We fulfill the commands of God by walking in **faith and love**, it's that simple!

1 Timothy 1:6-7 ⁶ from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, ⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

- 1. Idle Talk – It **sounds spiritual**, but **lacks substance**. It's meaningless **babble**.
 - a) I have been hearing the word “blessed” used by non-Christians.
 - b) They use this word, it sounds spiritual, without understanding what it really means.

2. Paul is critical of those who were *desiring to be teachers of the law*; but were really faking it...

News Story: Teen accused of posing as doctor

- a) A grand jury indicted Malachi Love-Robinson, 19, on Jan. 3 on charges of making false statements to obtain credit, attempting to obtain money under false pretenses, identity theft and forgery.
 - b) Love-Robinson was arrested Sept. 9 in Stafford, Va., just south of Washington, D.C. Authorities there allege the teen provided false information while trying to purchase a Lexus at a car dealership.
 - c) Love-Robinson also faces criminal charges in Palm Beach County after his arrest last February on multiple charges, including practicing medicine without a license, forgery and grand theft. At the time, authorities said Love-Robinson was illegally practicing medicine in a third-floor office at West Palm Medical Plaza, near JFK Medical Center North.
 - d) He is also accused of defrauding an elderly woman out nearly \$35,000 after examining her for stomach pain.
3. People who fake it like the *power* and *prestige* that comes with a prominent title, *without actually earning* the true title of Doctor, Teacher, Rabbi.
 - a) These types of titles often command respect and even compensation.
 - b) That is what was taking place in Ephesus in the church and Timothy was charged with confronting and correct it.

1 Timothy 1:8-10 ⁸ But we know that the law *is* good if one uses it lawfully, ⁹ knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for *the* lawless and insubordinate, for *the* ungodly and for sinners, for *the* unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, ¹⁰ for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine,

1. The Law is not for the righteous...
 - a) The Righteous is justified by faith: **Galatians 3:11** But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith."
2. The *Law is good* in that it helps us recognize our need for God!
 - a) **Psalms 19:7** The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
 - b) **Galatians 3:24** Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
 - c) The law helps us realize *we are sinners*. The gospel tells us that we can be forgiven and saved.
 - i) So the Law is good in that it is supposed to *lead us to Christ*.

3. Paul lists many bad things in verses 9-10, but there's nothing on that list that can't be forgiven my Jesus Christ if you will repent and turn to Him by faith.

1 Timothy 1:11 ¹¹ according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.

1. The glorious gospel says: **You can be forgiven!**
2. Finally, notice that Paul declares that the gospel has been committed to my trust.
 - a) As we look at Paul's life and letters we see that he was **faithful** in spreading that gospel message.
 - b) What has been committed to your trust? What has God given to you?
 - i) Are you being just as faithful in your assignment as Paul was in his?

Conclusion: What's the big take away from this passage?

1. As we begin this new book, I want you to see that God's desire is that as His disciples we would have **love from a pure heart**, from a **good conscience**, and from **sincere faith**.

Invitation: Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

ⁱ All scripture references, unless otherwise noted, are taken from The New King James Version. (1982). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

ⁱⁱ <http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2014/september/1-in-4-pastors-have-mental-illness-lifeway-focus-on-family.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-29/anguish-and-agonies-of-charles-spurgeon.html>