

1 Timothy 1:1-7

The Importance of Sound Doctrine

It was an add that appeared in a London Newspaper in about the year 1913 it simply read
“Men wanted for hazardous journey, small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honor and recognition in case of success.”

That advertisement appeared in a London newspaper and *thousands of men responded!*

The Reason: It was signed by the noted Arctic explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton and that was what made the difference.

If Jesus Christ had advertised for workers, the announcement might have read something like this:
“Men and women wanted for difficult task of helping to build My church. You will often be misunderstood, even by those working with you. You will face constant attack from an invisible enemy. You may not see the results of your labor, and your full reward will not come till after all your work is completed. It may cost you your home, your ambitions, even your life.”

WOW – How many of you would respond to an add like that ?

A) Timothy was one young man who responded to Christ’s call to help build His church.

B) He was one of Paul’s special assistants.

1) Timothy was a native of Lystra in the Roman province of Galatia.

C) Paul visited there on his first missionary Journey.

1) It was there that he stayed in the home of Timothy and his family.

D) Timothy was probably in his teen yrs at the time and it was during that trip he came to believe in Christ as his Savior.

Paul came back to Lystra on his 2nd missionary journey now Timothy was older.

A) This time he joined Paul and Silas in the work of the Lord.

B) From that time forward Timothy was Paul's constant companion.

1) Over and over again Paul's voice vibrates with affection when he speaks of Timothy.

C) When he is sending him to that sadly divided Church at Corinth, he writes: **"I have sent to you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord" (1Cor 4:17).**

B) When he is planning to send him to Philippi, he writes: **"I have no one like him.... As a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel" (Php 2:20, 22).**

What they had been thru together created a special bond of ministry. LIKE MINDED

A) Timothy was the man whom Paul could trust and could send anywhere, knowing that he would go.

B) So when the Church in Ephesus was having some problems and needing direction –

1) Paul sent Timothy to be their Pastor

C) The Church in Ephesus was one of Paul's favorites – 1) It was special to Paul – He stayed there the Longest – 3 Yrs

D) God had done a great work in Ephesus during his three-year ministry:

1) The word Spread from Ephesus throughout the whole province of Asia.

E) But Ephesus was also a very immoral place which meant it would not be the easiest place to pastor a church.

The city was devoted to the worship of Diana, the GODDESS of the sexual instinct.

A) Great sexual immorality

B) In Acts 20 as Paul was leaving the Church of Ephesus –

1) Paul had a little retreat with the Elders of the Church:

C) He called for them to join him on the Island of Miletus – There He warned them

Acts 20:29-31 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

D) Paul's warning was Prophetic now those false teachers had infiltrated the Church –

1) So this is what Timothy was having to deal with.

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

A) Paul refers to himself in his usual fashion – he calls himself an apostle of Christ Jesus.

B) Apostle is the Greek word apostolos (which means to send out; or one who was sent out.

1) Ancient times it referred an ambassador, one who is sent out to represent his country and his king.

C) It is the first duty of every ambassador to form a relationship between the country to which he is sent and the country from which he has come.

D) He is the connecting link.

We are Ambassadors of Christ!

A)The first duty of every Christian is to be a connecting link between our fellow-men & JC.

B) Telescope purpose to bring things that are distant near –

1) to some people Jesus is very Distant our Job is to bring him Close.

C) SO Paul was an apostle - God's ambassador

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

Christ our Lord.

A) Paul does something Unique here in his greeting – usually – Grace & Peace

B) Grace – Charis – Grk / Peace – Shalom – Hebrew

1) Grace is who God is – Peace result of knowing Him

C) Here he adds the word Mercy – why?

D) As parents, we know our sons are in need of great mercy!

1) And evidently Paul knew the same thing about Timothy, his son in the faith.

E) Pastors need a lot of Mercy: High Calling - James 3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment

The Grk word for mercy is eleos – but the Hebrew is chesed – Paul uses here.

A) Now chesed is the word which is often in the Old Testament translated loving-kindness;

B) and when Paul prayed for mercy on Timothy, he is saying, to put it very simply, "*Timothy, may God be good to you.*"

C) But there is more to it than that. Chesed is used in the Psalms no fewer than 127 times.

D) And time and time again it has the meaning of help in time of need.

1) It speaks of "God's active intervention to help.

E) " As Hort puts it, "It is the coming down of the Most High to help the helpless."

Barclay **"I think that Paul added Mercy to his two usual words, Grace and Peace, because Timothy was up against it and he wanted in one word to tell him that the Most High was the help of the helpless."**

A) That is such a great thought – God is the helper of the Helpless

1) God would give Timothy the grace, mercy and peace he needed to lead the Ephesians Church

B) God is ready to supply you with what is needed to do what He has called you to do as well.

1 Tim 1:3-7

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.⁵ Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,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.

Now in this opening section there are 3 areas of critical concern on Paul's heart

1) STAYING POWER As I urged you when I went into Macedonia -- remain in Ephesus

Paul's first burden was to encourage Tim to stay on and finish the task.

A) Temptation would be to Run ! – Never Run

B) Every Christian worker has wanted to quit at one time or another.

1) How about you lately?

C) Don't abandon your post! Remain! Don't quit!

1) Inference to Timothy – Remain longer – hang

Gal.6:9 “let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

It's learning, as Isaiah said, to walk & not faint!

A) Josh Billings(American humorist) said, “Consider the **postage stamp**, it's usefulness consists in the ability to **stick to one thing** till it gets there.” ☺

B) Don't run if things are not going the way that you like –

1) Make a point to seek the Lord – how you can help things be better. { **Part of the SOLUTION**

C) Allow the Lord to use you to be a part of the solution

D) Paul was encouraging Timothy to hang in there –

2ND CRITICAL CONCERN: Sound Doctrine

A) Church today **Scared of the word Doctrine:**

George Barna the church statistician states that there is “a great deal of ambivalence among Americans with regard to their beliefs.

For instance, while 62 percent of the respondents said they have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ, 65 percent said the term “born again” does not apply to them;

Jesus said – Unless you are Born again

And fewer than 50 percent strongly agreed that the Bible is the written word of God and is totally accurate in all it teaches.”

Paul refers to these false teachings in v.6 to idle talk

A) Teachings that take a person NO where that is profitable – idle – they are worthless to have any righteous affect

B) In fact they take a person on a path that leads to destruction

C) **There were 3 distinct things that characterized these idle teachings:**

1) Fables or Myths 2) Genealogies 3) Legalism

FABLES

A) Paul's reference to “ fables ” or myths could possibly mean the philosophy of Philo.

B) Philo was an outstanding and brilliant Israelite who took the OT & spiritualized it and rationalized much of it.

C) Crossing of the Red sea –

1) Feeding of the 5,000

D) Still happens today People who teach that that the stories are myths and the men didn't actually live.

2nd Endless Genealogies:

A) The ancient world had a passion for genealogies..

A man like Alexander the Great had a completely artificial pedigree constructed in which he traced his lineage back on the one side to Achilles and Andromache and on the other to Perseus and Hercules.

B) Genealogies have a purpose: Names are important to God

1) Gen 5 Genealogy - GOSPEL

Adam = Man

Seth – appointed

Enosh,= Mortal

Kenan= Sorrowful

Mahalalel The Blessed God

Jared Came Down,

Enoch = Teaching

Methuselah His death shall bring;

Lamech ="Strength

Noah = Comfort."

C) So there is an example of a message in a Genealogy – However need to be careful that we

D) Don't go overboard – looking for hidden messages when there is plenty that is revealed that we still don't know – and much more that we don't follow!

That is what these false teachers were doing – Majoring on Minor things

3rd Legalism v.7 Caught up in the Law – Next time

A) False teachings major on man: Man's responsibilities Legalism or Man's pleasure / Carnality

SO THESE WERE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES THAT TIMOTHY WAS UP AGAINST.

THE MIND OF THE HERETIC

1) **He is driven by the desire for novelty.** He is like someone who must be in the latest fashion and must undergo the latest craze.

He despises old things for no better reason than that they are old, and desires new things for no better reason than that they are new.

Listen if it is true it is not going to be new – New not true - Grid – Jesus teach it or model it – Early Church teach it or model it – Epistles taught –

2) He exalts the mind at the expense of the heart.

His conception of religion is speculation and not experience.

Christianity has never demanded that a man should stop thinking for himself, but it does demand that his thinking should be dominated by a personal experience of Jesus Christ. – Filtered thru the absolute truth of God's word

3) He deals in argument instead of action. He is more interested in abstruse discussion than in the effective administration of the household of the faith.

He forgets that the truth is not only something which a man accepts with his mind, but is also something which he translates into action.

There is always a danger of heresy when we fall in love with words and forget deeds, for deeds are the acid test by which every argument must be tested.

4) He is moved by arrogance rather than by humility. He looks down with a certain contempt on simple-minded people who cannot follow his intellectual speculation.

He regards those who do not reach his own conclusions as ignorant fools.

5) He is guilty of majoring on man & minoring on God.

Everything is about man's responsibility or man's pleasure.

Result people are controlled manipulated taken advantage of and spiritually led astray and destroyed.

That is the by product of Heresy:

Paul was concerned about these false teachers and the affect that they were having on the Church

A) Paul's 3rd area of Critical concern was for the understanding and Pursuing Biblical Goals

V.5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,

B) Here is how you can tell, almost at a glance, what is going on in a church.

1) If a church is giving itself to some subtle form of human philosophy, it will result in endless speculation.

C) But if the truth is being taught and preached and believed,

1) it will always result in a loving congregation. Love is our aim.

Purpose of the teaching of the Word is to produce Love

A) Love for God / Love for each other / love for the lost

B) That is the essence of what Christianity is all about

C) How are we to love?

“A pure heart” – has to do with motives.

A) Loving for the right reasons

Maybe you heard about the guy who fell in love with an opera singer. He hardly knew her, since his only view of the singer was through binoculars -- from the third balcony. But he was convinced he could live "happily ever after" married to a voice like that.

He scarcely noticed she was considerably older than he. Nor did he care that she walked with a limp. Her soprano voice would take them through whatever might come. After a whirlwind romance and a hurry-up ceremony, they were off for their honeymoon together.

She began to prepare for their first night together. As he watched, his chin dropped to his chest. She plucked out her glass eye/ She pulled off her wig, ripped off her false eyelashes, yanked out her dentures, unstrapped her artificial leg, and smiled at him as she slipped off her glasses that hid her hearing aid. Stunned and horrified, he gasped, "For goodness sake, woman, sing, sing, SING!"

Wrong Motives -

The story is told of a desert wanderer who found a crystal spring of unsurpassed freshness. The water was so pure he decided to bring some to his king.

Barely satisfying his own thirst, he filled a leather bottle with the clear liquid and carried it many days beneath the desert sun before he reached the palace. When he finally laid his offering at the feet of the King the water had become stale and rank due to the old container in which it had been stored.

But the king would not let his faithful subject even imagine that it was unfit for use. He tasted it with expressions of gratitude and delight, and sent away the loyal heart filled with gladness.

After he had gone, others sampled it and expressed their surprise that the king had even pretended to enjoy it. "Ah!" said he, "it was not the water he tasted, but the love that prompted the offering."

The King knew his love was from a pure heart

Our King needs to know the same!

“A good conscience”

A) The conscience is connected to truth - the way that we know what is right vs. wrong: Word

B) Therefore a good Conscience is going to be one that conducts itself according to the word !

C) It is love that is in accordance with the word of God

1) Makes no concessions for bad attitudes

Consider these insights from Corrie Ten Boom

She shares this true story in her book, The Hiding Place:

Yrs in Nazi concentration camps – Brutal conditions – abuse

She tells of a time after the War when she was speaking at a Church in Munich – After the service – people greeting – She was approached by a familiar face. – One of the guards –

in fact this guard was one that would often stand & watched as they took showers.

He came up to me as the church was emptying, beaming and bowing. "How grateful I am for your message, Fraulein," he said. "To think that, as you say, He has washed my sins away!"

His hand was thrust out to shake mine. And I, who had preached so often to the people in Bloemendaal the need to forgive, kept my hand at my side.

Even as the angry, vengeful thoughts boiled through me, I saw the sin of them. Jesus Christ had died for this man; was I going to ask for more? Lord Jesus, I prayed, forgive me and help me to forgive him.

I tried to smile, I struggled to raise my hand. I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity. And so again I breathed a silent prayer. Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me Your forgiveness.

As I took his hand the most incredible thing happened. From my shoulder along my arm and through my hand a current seemed to pass from me to him, while into my heart sprang a love for this stranger that almost overwhelmed me.

And so I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that the world's healing hinges, but on His. When He tells us to love our enemies, He gives, along with the command, the love itself.

“A Sincere faith” –

A) a faith that goes beyond mere outward appearances.

Love in action – not just with words but with deeds

B) Sincere – means without Hypocrisy

C) Actors where a mask

D) Without Wax – Vase – fill cracks with Wax

1) This is without wax

Love from a Sincere faith is love – where the actions match the heart

A) **It doesn't take much effort to tell someone “I love you”**

B) People use those words all the time: love the Padres - love pizza - love my dog - love my wife

C) Hopefully - there is a difference in the degree of our love for pizza & Padres and love for our wife.

1.) Easy to say - I love you - “True actions speak louder than words”

SO - The Goal is Love from a Pure heart / Good conscience / sincere faith

POINT:

So There is a dynamic connection between our doctrine and the way we live.

A) Often today we hear people say, “We don’t need more doctrine. What we need is practical preaching.”

B) What we know and believe has everything to do with how we live. { Doctrine & Practical – connected

1) It is where your theology merges with your reality

Beth Moore

C) Think of it this way:

1) Do you love God now? Will you love Him less if you learn more about Him? Absolutely not!

D) You will love Him more.

The more you learn of His excellencies, His holiness, His grace, His mercy, His love, the greater will your grasp of His character, and the closer to Him you will draw.

E) The greatest need of the church today is not less doctrine but *more* doctrine - about God, about salvation, about ourselves, about character, about church, about family.

Our greatest need is to know God better - and we can learn more only from His Word.

A) Never sell doctrine short. False doctrine promotes controversies and strife.

But sound doctrine produces a dynamic love “which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith” (v. 5).

Joyful worship flows up to God and the overflow gladly meets the needs of others.