

A TRUE SON 1 TIMOTHY 1

Paul is writing to his protégé, Timothy, whom he has left in the City of Ephesus, which is in modern day Turkey. It is still there. You can visit it and Lynette and I did just that 6 years ago.

We spent a whole day there with one of the original Archeologist as our guide – quite by accident... OR... was it just an accident???

He showed us what an amazingly modern city Ephesus was in its day with underground clay pipes... running water... the largest library of it's time... Stadiums... Arenas... theaters that sat thousands... AND... the first place to use the serpent on a pole for the medical symbol; as well as the first place where the fish was a symbol for Christianity.

It was an important city politically; and it was an important City to the Apostle Paul spiritually. **WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT?**





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

- This is a strong opening by Paul...
 - At the end of his life he is making it clear that God “commanded” him to do this ministry.
 - Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit he is writing these things to Timothy and FOR the Church at Ephesus... AND US!

2 To Timothy, a true son in the faith: (**True = Legit... genuine... “My own...”**) Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Why Grace before mercy and peace?
- So, Paul writes to Timothy who is a “true son...” a faithful son... Approved and not ashamed...
- Why **MERCY** and Grace and peace? We don't know- except that Paul only wishes mercy on other Pastors...

WARNING AGAINST FALSE TEACHERS

3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—(**Greece**) 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 (**Questions**) rather than godly edification which is in faith.

GUZIK – “*Stay in Ephesus and stay with the Scriptures.*”

We can think of many reasons why Timothy might *not* want to **remain in Ephesus**:

- He might have missed Paul and wanted to be with his mentor.
- He might have been intimidated by following Paul's ministry.
- He seems to have been somewhat timid or reserved by nature and was perhaps intimidated by the challenge.
- He might have been discouraged by the normal difficulties of ministry.
- He might have questioned his own calling.
- He might have been frustrated by the distracting and competing doctrines swirling around the Christians in Ephesus.

THE BOTTOM LINE

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

- IE; Timothy... just love the people of Ephesus with sincere love!
- Keep your heart pure and the message simple. **DON'T STRAY!**

6 from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk,

- These are preachers who do not preach... They have themes... Favorite verses... And pep talk rallies , but if people aren't being changed by the words it is just idle talk. **They are...**

7 desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

- In Paul's day there were Judaizers who were trying to get free people back under the bondage of the law.
- We have modern day Clergy who are telling people that the principles taught in the bible are archaic and out of date for our culture.
- They are "Progressive Christians" who want to talk about love and tolerance and not about sin and hell.
- The problem I have with that is that kindness and tolerance won't keep you from hell. Being forgiven of your sin WILL, AND the Holy Spirit will help you to be kind, loving, and to stop living in sin... **LISTEN TO PAUL...**

8 But we know that the law *is* good if one uses it lawfully, (Making the world guilty before God and producing repentance)

9 knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for *the* lawless and insubordinate, (**Check out Paul's list of sins:**)

for *the* ungodly and for sinners, (**REBELLIOUS**) for *the* unholy and profane, (**REFUSING TO HONOR SACRED THINGS – Like marriage**) for murderers (**Haters**) of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, (**Killing of innocents**) 10 for

fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, 11 according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.

- At the risk of sounding intolerant, I must warn you that living in one of these sinful lifestyles does NOT bode well for your eternity. WHY NOT?
- Because Born Again people DO NOT LIVE LIKE THIS... Are we judging you?
- JUST... Your behavior. NOT your soul...
- People in sinful lifestyles argue that "Jesus said NOT to judge." He did... In **Matthew 7:1** "Judge not, that you be not judged."
- In that same chapter He said this in **V 15**...

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

NOPE

17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. *(In hell)*

- **20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them."**

Jesus is telling us in Matthew 7 to NOT condemn one another, but TO be fruit inspectors. If someone says they are one of the branches attached to the vine, (Jesus) – They will behave more like HIM than the world.

Grape vines produce grapes, NOT nuts!

CHRIST JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, 13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent (**Violent**) man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.

- “I know not what I did...” Like the prayer of Jesus on the cross.
- Paul revels in the mercy shown to him by God...
 - **OH! And SO DO I...** Anyone else? Aren't you SO glad for mercy?
- Listen to us those of you in a sinful lifestyle, we have no desire to judge you. We are too busy praising Jesus for having mercy on us!
- **Here's some good news...** He will have mercy on you too. Turn to Him. Turn away from sin. In that order if you need to. Let Him refurbish your heart and He will take away the desire to sin. **Accept Him, AND...**

14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

- The Apostle was tougher on himself than with others...
- So... Why was He chosen?

16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

- Paul is saying that if HE could be saved, ANYBODY could be saved.
- As he thinks about the mercy shown to him....

PAUL BREAKS OUT IN PRAISE (We used to sing this too)

17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

THEN HE REMINDS TIMOTHY

18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, **(IE, remember what God has said to you...)**

- In the second letter to Timothy **CH. 1:6** Paul will instruct his young protégé to stir up the gifts and start using them again...
- Maybe that is a good word for some of us here today...

19 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, **(spiritually)**

20 of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

- These two were teaching people to try another way to get to heaven...
- It WILL NOT go well on the day of judgment, for those who try to twist, change, or water down the gospel of Jesus Christ...