

1 Timothy 1:3=11 Sermon Prep 1

The Need for faithful Ministers (1 Timothy 1:3-11)

I. Proper teaching (3-5)

- I. A minister must be faithful to biblical teaching/sound doctrine
- I. A faithful minister watches over his flock
- I. A faithful minister must teach sound doctrine
- I. A faithful minister is concerned about sound doctrine
- I. The mark of a strong ministry is sound doctrine
- I. A ministry marked by sound doctrine is strong
- I. We must have ministries marked by sound doctrine
- I. Our ministries must be marked by sound doctrine

Instruct – military term meaning to give strict orders and emphasized the commanding was to be done authoritatively. To effectively or successfully bring about.

A. Against strange doctrines

- A. Stand against strange doctrines
- A. Watch for counterfeits

Teach Strange doctrines – One word. Constantly or repeatedly, customarily a continual process or habit. Created with two words 1) didasklien = doctrine, teaching 2) hetreo – wholly different. Together it means to teach something totally different. To opponents in the pastoral epistle were not Gnostics but rather Jews or Jewish Christians who were teachers of the law who taught Jewish myths and genealogies and that the resurrection had already occurred.

Comm – apparently coined by Paul, only here and 6:3. No where else, not even in secular literature.

B. Not to pay attention to...

- B. Hinder evangelism
- B. Hinder God's administration
- B. Watch for divisions

Pay constant attention or repeatedly, customarily a continuously process or habit to occupy oneself with. Parallel to preceding infinitive (not to teach strange doctrines)

1. Myths

fables, legendary stories

1 Tim. 4:7 – worldly fables fit for old women

Titus 1:14 – they are called Jewish Myths

It is explained as traditional supplements to the Law, allegorical interpretations, Jewish stories of miracles, rabbinical fabrications

2. Endless genealogies

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The tracing of one's ancestors or family tree. In post-exilic Judaism, there was a keen interest in family trees and this played a part in controversies between Jews and Jewish Christians. They were used to foster religious and national pride of the Jews against the Gentiles.

a. They give rise to mere speculation
out-of-the-way researches

b. Instead of furthering our responsibility
Administration – entrusting of responsibility to a trusted person, office of stewardship entrusted to them by God.

“Which is by faith” – which must be embraced by faith

Comm – Paul feared that the Ephesians might spend so much time in fruitless discussion of novel doctrines that they would not carry out God's plan of bringing people to a place of obedience and faith before Jesus.

Comm – False teaching promoted questions and controversies. The false teacher paid close attention to what did not need to be a focus. This led to fruitless discussions and strife. The result of the irrelevant teaching contrasted the true edification that sprang from godly instruction.

C. Goal of our instruction...

C. Remember the Goal

C. Goal results in love

C. Watch for the goal

Instruction – same as verse 3 – not “command” but “charge”

Military term meaning to give strict orders and emphasizes the commanding was to be done authoritatively.

Comm – false teachers are involved in speculation, meaningless talk, full of deception, and this leads to quarrels and suspicions (6:4-5). The reason Paul is ordering them to stop is to bring the church back to the proper result of God's work, love for one another.

1. Love

Agape – God's love.

a. pure heart

Comm – Pure, was used of corn which had been winnowed of chaff. Used of an army which had been purified of all cowardly and undisciplined soldiers until there is nothing left but first-class warriors. Pure heart is absolutely pure and absolutely unmixed.

b. good conscience
indicates self-judgment

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Comm – The seat of moral consciousness. It arbitrates one’s own actions.

Comm – To be able to look the knowledge which one shares with no one else in the face, and not to be ashamed of anything in it.

- c. sincere faith
sincere – without hypocrisy

Comm – Trust in God that is truly there. In contrast to the false teacher’s faith.

II. Keep on track (6-7)

- II. Unfaithful ministers turn away from truth/doctrine
- II. The mark of a weak ministry is false doctrine
- II. A ministry marked by weak doctrine will be weak
- II. We must avoid ministries marked by false doctrine
- II. We will have those who attempt to derail/oppose us

“turned aside” – medical term “to be dislocated”, turn or twist aside. Reference is made here to quite a doctrinal wrench from the true position. This is not a slight misinterpretation of the word but a serious change of position doctrinally.

A. Straying from these things (pure heart, good conscience, sincere faith)

- A. No love
- A. Love is missing
- A. Direction is off

Straying – to miss the mark, to serve, to fail, to aim at. The word suggest taking no pains to aim at the right path. Tense – indicates this happened before main verb or “turning aside.”

B. Turned to fruitless discussion

- B. Lacking content
- B. Discussions are empty

Vain or useless talk, idle chatter, empty argument

C. Wanting to be teachers of the Law

- C. Desire to teach legalism
- C. Desiring to be teachers of law
- C. Desire is wrong

A term from Judaism. They sought popularity not only in their subtle and detailed exegesis, but also in a strict legalism and ascetic demands, using the Law as a means to produce righteousness.

Comm – law teachers – refers to those seriously coveting to be official teachers of Mosaic Law.

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1. Don't understand

Stresses their continual inability to understand

a. what they are saying

Continually

b. confidently assert

Strongly affirm, to speak confidently, to insist. To give one's opinion in a firm dogmatic tone.

Comm – In spite of their forceful expressions and confident manner of assertions, Paul declared that they did not grasp the nature of the great topics of Law and philosophy on which they dogmatized.

III. Proper understanding (8-11)

III. The difference is a proper understanding of the law

III. The difference is their devotion (where it is placed)

III. We must have a proper understanding of the Law

III. We must possess a proper understanding of the Law

“law is good if used lawfully”

different than “good conscience” in verse 5. that was intrinsically good. This means suitable useful.

“If one uses it lawfully” – agreeably to the design of the law

Comm – The law was given to describe and shows the sinfulness of sin, the holiness of God, and His love for the sinner. It was not given as a program by which one may acquire or retain salvation. The law properly taught points to Christ.

A. Law is not for righteous

Comm – because none existed

Comm – We need law for the punishment of criminals and the protection of society. Law is not for the righteous person but for those who are unrighteous.

Comm – The lawful use of the Law is to expose, restrain, and convict the lawless. The law cannot save lost sinners. It can only reveal they need a Savior. When a sinner believes on Jesus Christ, he is freed from the curse of the Law and the righteous demands of the Law are met by the indwelling Holy Spirit as the believer yields to God (Rom. 8:1-4).

B. Law is for...

1. Lawless and rebellious

1. Those who ignore the law of God

lawless – recognizes no law

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rebellious – not made subject, undisciplined, disobedient, rebellious
in one case (lawless) no legal obligation is recognized. In the other case (rebellious)
subjection to law is recognized but refused.

2. Ungodly and sinners

2. Those who are irreverent to God's Law

Ungodly – irreverent, irreligious, destitute of reverential awe toward God.

Comm – inwardly irreverent

Comm – Sinner – outwardly irreverent, habitually miss the mark.

3. Unholy and profane

3. Taint

3. Something about purity

3. Belittle the Law of God

Unholy – lack of inner purity

Profane – root word is “threshold” and has the primary sense of that which is trodden on.
That which is accessible to everyone the opposite of inaccessible or sacred, profane

4. Lawbreakers

4. Break the Law of God

a. Kill father and mothers (5th commandment)

Comm – Unnatural treatment of parents, really emphasizes is on the 5th commandment.

b. Murderers (6th commandment)

c. Immoral and homosexuals (7th commandment)

d. Kidnappers (8th commandment)

Literally, to catch a man by the foot. Man-stealer, kidnapper. It includes all who exploit other men and women for their own selfish ends. Refers to a slave-dealer, kidnapper, a man-stealer, as well as one who unjustly reduces free men to slavery, also one who steals the slaves of others and sells them.

e. liars and perjurers (9th commandment)

The above list is a conscious reflection of the Mosaic Law as law and expresses the kinds of sins such law was given to prohibit. This is why God gave His laws, not for idle speculation and meaningless talk.

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5. Contrary to sound teaching

5. Contrary to God's Law

sound teaching is...

Sound – to be healthy, the words denotes the wholesomeness or healthiness of true Christian doctrine

a. The glorious gospel

Comm – There are at least 14 possibilities of what this means.

b. Entrusted to Paul

b. From God

c. through man (entrusted to Paul)

Comm – as opposed to the false teacher who misuse the law Paul has been entrusted, no the Law, but the Gospel to build kingdom and stop false teaching.

- 1). Glorious Gospel,
- 2) Comes from God,
- 3) Comes through men.