No Other Doctrine (I Timothy 1:1-11)

A True Son

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope, To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord." I Timothy 1:1-2 NKJV

I Timothy 1:1-2

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

Why is Paul in Ministry?

It all started on the road to Damascus. Paul was the chief persecutor of those who had become believers that Y'shua was the Messiah promised to Israel. He was so aggressive that he obtained official permission to seek out, jail and even kill those who were propagating the lies against his beloved Judaism. Remember, nearly every

- early "convert" to faith in Y'shua was a Jew. Paul would have had little concern about what the Gentiles believed, but that Jews were being draw to Y'shua was of great interest to him.
- You can read his conversion narrative in Acts 9, part of which was the prophetic vision of Ananias, who was told to minister to Paul a few days after the encounter he had with Christ that knocked him off his horse.
- Not only was Ananias used by God three days after Paul's conversion to take the "scales" off Paul's eyes, introduce him to the Holy Spirit, and baptize him, but to also deliver the message that became the banner of Paul's entire ministry.
 - "But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake.""

 Acts 9:15-16 NKJV

Why is Paul writing to Timothy?

Paul had learned to live a radically obedient life in the faith, so when he was commanded to do something, he did it. In this case it was to write this letter to Timothy, which as we will learn, was instrumental in Timothy's

discipleship as a leader, but also would be used by every generation since then as a guideline for excellent discipleship and ministry leadership.

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

✓ A son in the faith...

We know from other writings (1 Corinthians 7:8) that
Paul was not married throughout his ministry as an
Apostle. It's certainly possible he could have been
married previously and had become a widower, although
we have no direct information as such. We also see that
he never refers to any natural children of his own.
However, he does count some as spiritual sons, Timothy
being the most well known; he addresses Titus as such as
well.

Fables and Bad Doctrine

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

the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm." I Timothy 1:3-7 NKJV

I Timothy 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, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith." I Timothy 1:3-4 NKJV
 - **Oversee that those in the ministry teach no false** doctrine...
 - Timothy is young and well-trained as we will study later in Paul's letters to him. He has been left behind to lead the church in Ephesus and Paul knows he will face many challenges, not the least of which will be bad doctrines creeping into "authentic Christianity." Paul is confident that Timothy is well-equipped to handle doctrinal inconsistencies. What will be the common things for Timothy to be aware of?

- Jews love blood lines and for a good reason. Just read the Torah and you will see why. Right from Genesis we see the importance of knowing family history. But, Paul also knows that these bloodlines are superseded by faith lines. We are certainly not supposed to disregard blood lines, however, we are also not supposed to get so caught up in them that we miss the bigger picture of the faith family.
- If you doubt genealogies remain important, go no further than the first chapter in Matthew's gospel, and the third chapter of Luke's gospel. Genealogies are important, however, when they take precedent over godliness and when people would rather emphasize cultural storytelling above how the Holy Spirit is creating a new family of faith, a faith bloodline, then it's time to correct their priorities.

☑ Disputes rather than godly edification...

- ☑ How can you know if the emphasis has been skewed? It's simple; just notice if people are spending more time arguing about blood lines than they are edifying one another to grow in the faith.
- ✓ Note: if you want to see an excellent teaching on using Genealogies correctly, see: My Redeemer Lives

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

<u>Ine purpose of the commandment...</u>

Remember: Paul is writing "by the commandment of God." There are always so many levels of depth from which Paul writes. Get this; while Paul is writing to instruct Timothy about the importance of good doctrine, he, at the same time, is insuring that he does not get caught up in minutiae. Yes, I have been commanded to give my life for the gospel(s). And yes, I have been commanded to write this letter. But without love, nothing else matters (see I Corinthians 13). So, let me emphasize that the purpose of this entire letter is to make sure you do all things with love. (Even if it involves correcting people.) And do so with...

A Pure Heart

Pure means unmixed. The heart, of course in Hebrew construct is referring to the mind, or your way of thinking. You will have no OTHER intentions or motivations, other than what honors your faith and helps others see the truth. If you stray even a little from that, you will ultimately be disqualified.

A Good Conscience

You know when you are off base, so do some sober selfassessments. If you are not acting with a pure heart, correct yourself. If you do not, God certainly will.

Sincere Faith

- ☑ It's almost as if the word sincere is not needed here.
 Could it be "faith" if it was not sincere? Nevertheless,
 Paul is training a young man to be sincere, authentic,
 real, and ultimately widely accepted as a trusted leader in the Church.
- "from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm." I Timothy 1:6-7 NKJV
 - Straying from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith in favor of idle talk...
 - What is one of the red flags you can use to spot "church leaders" who have strayed from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith? Answer: Idle talk. A bunch of jibber -gabber that edifies no one and does nothing to advance the faith.

What do they look like?

- Teachers of the law who...
 - Don't understand what they are talking about! I believe we currently (2021) live in a world in which church leaders have completely strayed from understanding God's laws and how they apply to Christians today. This is not the place to espouse all the details of such, but if you wish to do a comprehensive study on this topic, search on our website for the key word: legalism. There is also a comprehensive Free Romans Commentary on our site that will help you understand this concept in every detail.
 - ☑ Don't understand the things they publicly declare! It gets even worse when those ignorant leaders are the ones with the loudest voices. It does not get more dangerous than this combination.
 - A strong desire to teach + Ignorance + A big mouth = Idle Talk

The Law is Good

"But we know that **the law is good if one uses it lawfully**, 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**, for **fornicators**, for **sodomites**, for

kidnappers, for **liars**, for **perjurers**, and if there is **any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine**, **according to the glorious gospel** of the blessed God which was **committed to my trust.**" I Timothy 1:8-11 NKJV

I Timothy 1:8-11

"But we know that **the law is good if one uses it lawfully**," I Timothy 1:8 NKJV

<u>Ine law is good...</u> <u>Ine law is good...</u>

Ignorance of the law is bad. Proper understanding of the law is good. Again, if this is a topic you feel Yahweh is calling you to understand (and I hope it is), then take the time out to study it. I can think of no better place than the Paul's letter to the Romans. I wrote an extensive commentary on Romans a number years ago that does an excellent job teaching in this area: Romans Commentary

<u>Ine Law is Spiritual and Good</u>

"For we know that **the law is spiritual**, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good." Romans 7:14-16 NKJV

Let's be clear. The problem was never the law. It's mankind that has the problem. The law simply points out your carnality. And when you recognize how important that is to your development, then you will agree that the law is good.

<u>Ine Law is established by faith, not nullified by it!</u>

- "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law." Romans 3:31 NKJV
 - It is tempting to think that we no longer need the law once we have been sealed with the faith that redeems us for all of eternity. Certainly this has been a prevailing doctrine throughout church history. However, stop and consider the magnitude of Paul's words here. Faith does not negate the importance of the law, but rather it further magnifies the importance of the law!

<u>Ine Law came in so that...</u>

✓ Offenses would abound! "Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness

- to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 5:20-21 NKJV
- I would know what sin is! "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."" Romans 7:7 NKJV
 - Note I: think of it this way. The law always existed even before it was "codified" at Mount Sinai. But when it was "officially designated", it gave man a written standard, a benchmark they could see with their own eyes, so they would have no excuse. In other words, "the law entered and I became acutely aware of my sins!"
 - Note II: If you even for a moment think that Y'shua came to get rid us of the law, go no further than the Sermon on the Mount. Shortly after He began to teach His first public sermon, He says this: ""Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled." Matthew 5:17-18 NKJV

- Fulfill (in Greek) means: fully preach, fully demonstrate (so you can imitate Me.)
- ✓ Not one jot or tittle means: I have NOT changed a thing!
- "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, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine," I Timothy 1:9-10 NKJV
 - - ☑ I love what Paul says after he teaches the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians.
 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. **Against such there is no law**." Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV
 - ✓ Let me bring this into the modern world so you have a good context. If you are not breaking the law, then there is no law to be concerned with. If you are

- driving within the speed limit, then there is no law that that should worry you.
- ☑ If you could arrive in a place in which you were living by the Spirit 100% of the time, there would not be a single one of God's law that you'd ever be violating.
- ✓ Not under the law...
- "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law." Galatians 5:16-18 NKJV
 - Now, if you rewind a few verses you see what it truly means to not be "under the law." It does not mean the no longer exists (as that would be completely contrary to Y'shua's words in the Sermon on the Mount).
 - ✓ Instead, it means that when you live by the Spirit, you would will be living in 100% compliance to God, and therefore there would be no law under which you'd be guilty.

The Lawless

- Here Paul makes a comprehensive, yet not exhaustive list of sins. Every one of them listed is a direct violation of God's laws. And just in case you conclude there are no others, Paul adds "and any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine (or in other words, God's truth, God's commands, God's laws). And of course, the law does not exist as a concern for the righteous; it is only the sinners who need be worried about it!
- "according to **the glorious gospel** of the blessed God which was **committed to my trust**." I Timothy 1:11 NKJV
 - **<u>Ine glorious gospel committed to my trust....</u>**
 - Gospel or Gospels? Let's conclude today's study with one small but critical detail. The gospel is glorious. The gospel is the good news. But there is NOT only one "good news" in the New Testament.
 - Minimally you need to understand two "main gospels", the Gospel of Salvation and the Gospel of the Kingdom.
 - The Gospel of Salvation is good news. Y'shua is our savior; He has substituted His life for ours. He made the way for us to live eternally with God. GOOD NEWS!
 - ☑ The Gospel of the Kingdom is also good news. Once we
 are born-again (by The Gospel of Salvation), we get to

- work being transformed into the image of Christ, and ultimately we are instrumental in establishing His Kingdom on earth.
- You can read about The Gospel of the Kingdom in the "about KEM" and Kingdom Embassy Ministries Statement of Faith on our <u>website</u>. And do a search for The Gospel of the Kingdom in our search bar to do an extensive studies on the "two gospels".

NEXT WEEK

Ignorance vs. Blaspheme (I Timothy 1:12-20)