

Introduction – We are beginning a new series titled “Doing Church”. Just like with “Doing Spirituality” in the previous 2 messages, I want to emphasize the “Doing” in our Christian walk. *Mt. 7:24 Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock”*

We are going to be covering one of the Pastoral Epistles of Paul which is 1 Tim. This letter to Tim, different that Paul’s prison epistles or his general epistles, is a personal letter to Tim not intended to be read publicly but, later became accepted in the canon of scripture. The theme of this book is “ministry leadership” to the church at Ephesus (applies to LifeHouse). The key vs in *1 Tim 4:16 “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you”*

1 Timothy gives us a big picture of the nature and the mission of the church

Teaches that -what a Jesus community believes will shape how it lives and behaves in that city. That is why Paul thought it very important for the church to always be shaping its beliefs to conform to the theology and doctrine of scripture and the good news of Jesus.

Also, Paul believed that the perception of the Church in public should be known for integrity and service to the poor and vulnerable out of our love and devotion to Jesus.

Paul was a relational leader, that loved Jesus and the church- This was a “Father to son” kind of letter.

Read- 1 Tim. 1-11

I. Vs 1. Called an Apostle –

- A. One who is sent on a missional assignment within or out from the local church.
- B. This assignment is the result of *relating to the trinity*-“obedience to God, through Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit.
- C. Meaning, purpose and Calling –

-meaning is the vehicle that God uses to emerge His purposes in us. His revealed purposes in us are the pillars that support His calling in our life, which are the inspiratives of God in our lives- “the divine expression of God in your life”

Questions for connections:

- What things in your life are meaningful?
- What is God building in you through what you are currently doing?
- What about your life causes God to smile?

Acts 13:36 says, that David served the purposes of God in His own generation.”

II. Vs. 2. Timothy my true child-

- A. Paul was a relational leader who loved people and the people of God – He did not see himself as anything that puffed up – slave, servant, father, brother, sinner, apostle
- B. This gives us a glimpse into Paul’s heart- more than anything he wanted to be faithful to Jesus, he desired to leave a good legacy behind, he wanted to genuinely express his love to a son.
- C. Then there is this idea of being a good son/daughter in the faith – we all have this desire to please our father, to be faithful to the core principles we have been taught, to live with integrity the convictions we have.

Questions for connections:

- Are you fighting for your faith, trying to live out your convictions the best you can?
- What is it that you want to be told about you after your race is run?

III. Vs. 3-11 Timothy's objective "Remain on"

A. Tim had been a Christian for about 15 years(mentored by Paul) –Christian about 48AD (63AD time of)

B. Timothy was told by Paul to "HOLD FAST"- Contend for the faith Jude 3

Illustration: Eleanor Mumford, wife of John Mumford – leaders of the Vineyard UK & Ireland. Saved because her roommate prayed for her diligently for 5 years. She contended for the faith of Elle!

Questions for connections:

- What in your life do you need to "Hold Fast" to or "Remain on" with?
- Who are you contending for?

C. This was the final years of Paul's life and ministry- He saw the Ephesian church was suffering false teaching and several disrupting realities.

D. Paul prophesied this reality to Ephesus in Acts

Acts 20:29-31 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.

E. This teaching was given to numerous ideas and worldviews that manifested in what Paul called **strange doctrines**---

1. Asceticism – extreme disciplines thought to make one spiritually awakened
2. Focus on the Torah and legalisms
3. Special revelations – that promoted elitism and special anointing
4. Resurrection already happened – 2 Tim 2:18

Like mentioned in the last 2 weeks regarding Christian Spirituality – whatever we give our time to, direct our focus at, engage our passion towards and spend our resource on – will ultimately be revealed who we become and are becoming.

Paul had the same thing in mind when he authored this pastoral epistle to Timothy- Teaching that is faithful to Jesus results in love and sincere faith in Christ.

If we "REMAIN ON" – "HOLD FAST" - We will avoid destruction in our lives, relationships, ministry, purpose, legacy –

1 Tim 1:5 we will grow in love from a pure heart, and a good conscience, and sincere faith?

IV. Questions for action

- A. Would you like greater clarity in your purpose?
- B. Do you need strength and courage to run your race?
- C. What truths in your life do you need to hold fast to?