

# 1 Timothy

## 1 – A Positive and Negative Charge

### 1 Timothy 1.1-11

#### Context (v.3)

- Timothy pastors in Ephesus
- Timothy pastors people Paul had taught
- Timothy pastors people who fell away
  - As Paul predicted – Acts 20.29-30 – and it only took 4 years

#### Content

- Speculation (v.4, 6-7)
  - The Book of Jubilees (120 B.C) – embellished rewrite of Genesis and Exodus
  - Modern Day – Bible Code, Left Behind, etc.
  - Key word: speculation instead of stewardship – their focus was not the Gospel
    - Because their focus was not on the Gospel, their behavior didn't fall in line with the Gospel
    - Because their behavior didn't fall in line with the Gospel, they looked for ways to justify themselves
    - Because they looked for ways to justify themselves, they speculated (a fancy word for made stuff up)
    - Because they speculated, they had to define, distract, and defend themselves publicly, so they “taught” and “made confident assertions” (v.6-7) – Bromleigh McClenaghan article
- Sickness (v.8-10)
  - Lawful use of the law: restraint, revelation, route
    - Reflective of 10 Commandments but tells us about what's going on in Ephesus and sounds a lot like our culture today
    - To be clear: these and many others are “contrary to healthy doctrine” – sin is our sickness and leads to its effects

#### Solution

- Look where it leads (v.4)
  - If it doesn't lead to more faithful living with God, it's not good / healthy doctrine
  - Does your understanding of salvation lead you to share the Gospel faithfully?
  - Does your understanding of marriage paint a healthy picture for your kids and neighbors?
  - Does your understanding of Jesus' return promote hope and urgency?

- Does your understanding of money allow you to invest in eternity and not just the stock market?
- Does your understanding of church make it a can't-miss or can-live-without?
- Does your understanding of the Bible prompt its reading?
- Keep your eye on the target (v.5)
  - The target is love – God's kind of love
    - From a pure heart – a heart ravished and cleansed by God's love for us
    - From a good conscience – a cleanness of life that is lived out in the community
    - From a sincere faith – legitimate, not wishy-washy, no hypocrisy kind of faith
- Your behavior shows your belief (v.10-11)
  - You cannot profess belief and behave differently – it betrays you (thus, no hypocrisy)
  - Key factor: if you consistently behave in an unhealthy manner, you believe an unhealthy doctrine
  - So what to do? It's not the only thing, but it is a crucial thing – change your belief
    - Must get into the Bible! You won't change without it (even though some read it and never change)

#### Questions for Discussion:

1. Who has been the most influential pastor / spiritual voice in your life? What made them so influential?
2. Read Paul's farewell address to the Ephesians Elders in Acts 20.17-38. From what you know of the situation Timothy faced, how did Paul's words come true? What else did he say that was spiritually shaping to the congregation in Ephesus? To you?
3. Have you ever had a spiritual impression about something ending poorly? Did it come true? Why do you think Paul had such an inclination about the Ephesians? How can those kind of spiritual insights prompt us to greater faithfulness?
4. Can you define, in your own words, Paul's three phrases in v.5 – pure heart, good conscience, sincere faith? How do those operate in your life? What are their effects?
5. What is your current level of and fulfillment in your Bible intake? Are there practices that are effective for you? Are there things you have tried that have failed?