

# I TIMOTHY 1:3-11

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## REVIEW...

- **WHY PAUL WROTE THE BOOKS OF I & II TIMOTHY / TITUS...**
  - The Pastoral Epistles were written to encourage pastors/leaders in ministry...
  - The Pastoral Epistles were written so the leaders would have answers...
  - The Pastoral Epistles lay out guidelines for the structure of the church
- **PAUL WROTE THE LETTER TOWARDS THE END OF HIS LIFE...**
  - Paul would ultimately be beheaded during this 2<sup>nd</sup> imprisonment in Rome...
  - Paul knew his time was limited – so he wanted to prepare these leaders!
- **WHO WAS PASTOR TIMOTHY...**
  - Timothy had been with Paul / watched Paul – and learned the ministry from Paul...
  - Timothy had been like a son to Paul – proven over time he was faithful...
  - Timothy was flexible in the ministry - always available and ready to answer the call...
  - There came a point when Paul needed to let Timothy step out on his own!

## TEACH THE WORD OF GOD... (3 POINTS)

- **1<sup>ST</sup> – FALSE DOCTRINE... vs. 3-4 (3 POINTS)**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - About FALSE DOCTRINE... vs. 3
    - The word DOCTRINE – simply means teachings or instructions...
      - Teachings or instructions on HOW we are to live our lives – what is required of us...
      - The question we need to ask is WHOSE teachings or instructions are we following...
      - There are ONLY two sources of DOCTRINE – they either come from God or men!
      - True DOCTRINE comes God ALONE – He tell us how He wants us to live our lives!
      - **John 7:16** – “Jesus... said, ‘My DOCTRINE is not Mine, but His who sent Me.’”
    - Other DOCTRINES – *heterodidaskaleō* - 2x in NT – a DIFFERENT doctrine...
      - This would be the DOCTRINES of men – meaning they were NOT from God...
      - There were those in Ephesus teaching something OTHER than the TRUTH!
      - Times have not changed much – there are a LOT of false DOCTRINES in the world today!
      - The world is full of false faiths posing to be from God – but denying Jesus!
      - They talk about a Jesus - but they are cults – their Jesus is not THE Jesus of the Bible!
      - Mormons believe Jesus is a created being - not God – but the brother of satan...
      - Jehovah witnesses – believe Jesus is Michael the arch angel – He is not God...
      - **Matthew 15:9** - “Teaching as doctrines the [ideas] of men.”
    - How to recognize FALSE DOCTRINE...
      - The way a banker learns to spot counterfeit money - is to study the real thing...
      - When a counterfeit note comes along - they can spot the imitation immediately!
      - We are to be so well versed in the Word - that when false doctrine comes along...
      - We can spot it as an imitation immediately - and completely avoid it!
      - Satan can and will imitate God – he looks like the real thing - **II Corinthians 11:14**
      - The only way to know the truth is by being men and women of the Word!
      - **John 17:17** – “[Jesus said to the Father] Your word is truth.”
    - The responsibility of a GODLY LEADER – is to protect...
      - Paul wanted TIMOTHY to remain in Ephesus to STOP false DOCTRINE...
      - Not that he was surprised by these teachings – he actually knew they would come!

- When Paul visited the church in Ephesus - where Timothy pastored - on this 3<sup>rd</sup> journey...
- He met with the Elders of the church on the Island of Miletus...
- **Acts 20:29-31** – “I know full well that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. Even some of you will distort the truth...”
- The TRUTH is – false teachers WILL COME and try and damage the church...
- They will try and steal people away from God – destroy their faith!
- Twisting the Word...
  - When satan tempted Jesus – **Luke 4** – he quoted from **Psalms 91:11-12**
  - Satan knows the Word of God - and he is willing to misuse it to confuse people...
  - He often does it by taking the Bible out of context – twisting the meaning!
  - Just because someone quotes a verse – does not mean their DOCTRINE is true...
  - Our responsibility is to know our Bible – in context - know the truth...
  - When false teachers twist the Word of God – we can spot the lie!
  - **II Timothy 2:15** – “Study to shew yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> - Do not give HEED to the DOCTRINES of men... vs. 4
  - Do not give HEED – give attention / be devoted / or even addicted to...
    - Fables – *mythos* – where we get the word mythology – literally a false story...
    - They are the made-up stories / ideas of MEN – we would say RELIGIONS!
    - All RELIGIONS the ideas of men about how to GET to Heaven – or how to KNOW God...
    - But no man has EVER been to Heaven – or met God – so they do NOT know!
    - ONLY the one FROM heaven – Jesus – can tell us how to get to Heaven!
  - Endless genealogies – prioritizing family lineage – I am the son of so and so...
    - I am saved because of who my family is – or because of my country!
    - There are people to believe – because my father is a Christian – I am saved as well...
    - Or because I am a Filipino – a Christian country – I am automatically saved
    - God has NO grandchildren – and only ONE citizenship counts – belonging to heaven!
    - Therefore - we are told to avoid both of these – because they focus on MEN!
    - And the ideas and pedigree of men have NO POWER to save us from our sins!
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> – The result of the DOCTRINES of men... vs. 4
  - Causes disputes – the author / or cause of – questions / debates...
    - Because there is NO authority in the DOCTRINE of men – only another persons ideas!
    - If I argue that I have the TRUTH about how to get to heaven – how to live Godly...
    - But my TRUTH is just my idea – who is to say I am right / and everyone else is wrong...
    - Another person will just ARGUE / DEBATE their TRUTH is better than my TRUTH...
    - Many today in an effort to solve this problem will now argue – there is NO TRUTH...
    - We all just have OPINIONS – and TRUTH is unknowable!
    - **John 18:38** – “Pilate said to [Jesus], ‘What is truth?’”
  - Rather than GODLY edification in faith...
    - Godly EDIFICATION – 7x in NT – better translated Godly administration or leadership...
    - **Romans 3:4** – “Let God be true but every man a liar.”
    - When we give HEED to the DOCTRINES of men – we are no longer GODLY leaders!
    - You may have seen this in churches where the Word is not taught...
    - When a church starts to follow the DOCTRINES of men - rather than Jesus - BIG problem...
    - The identity a church becomes a religion (*denomination*) - rather than Jesus!
    - They focus on their differences - rather than coming together as the family of God...
    - Causing division within the church of God - hindering the power of the Gospel!
- 2<sup>ND</sup> – GODLY DOCTRINE... vs. 5 (3 POINTS)

- o The PURPOSE of the COMMANDMENT... vs. 5
  - The PURPOSE – we would say the end / or the conclusion / result...
  - The commandment – parangello – the message of DOCTRINE of God...
  - Where the DOCTRINE of men only causes disputes and arguments...
  - The DOCTRINE of God – the Word of God - has POWER to transform the hearer!
  - The Word of God formed the universe – **Genesis 1:3** - it has A LOT of power!
  - The Word of God has the ability to cut right to our heart / convict us of our sin...
  - It can turn us away from the world - and convince us to follow Jesus!
  - **Hebrews 4:12** – “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
- o 1<sup>st</sup> – LOVE from a pure heart...
  - LOVE – *agape* – perfect love that comes naturally from a clean / PURE heart...
  - **Galatians 5:22** – “The fruit of the Spirit is love...”
  - Notice it does not say the *fruits* of the Spirit - but the FRUIT of the Spirit...
  - THE fruit is Love – the other 8 words describe what LOVE looks like!
  - We know we are following the DOCTRINE of God when there is Love from a PURE heart!
  - Most importantly - a Love for God - **Deuteronomy 6:5**
  - But almost equally important - a love for others - **Leviticus 19:18**
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> – A good conscience...
  - GOOD – *agathos* – one of two words translated as GOOD in NT...
    - *Agathos* emphasizes the moral goodness of something or someone...
    - When we follow the DOCTRINE of God – our conscience becomes morally GOOD!
  - People have lots of ideas how to ease their troubles conscience...
    - Christians who practice flagellation and crucifixion (*usually during Lent*)
    - Some turn to 12 step recovery programs for drug / alcohol addicts...
    - The problem is these are all the ideas of men – and miss THE solution!
    - **Psalm 119:11** - “Your word I have hidden in my heart... I might not sin against You!”
    - The ONLY way to have a good conciseness - find victory in life - read our Bible...
    - The Bible will keep us from sin – but sin will keep us from the Bible!
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sincere faith...
  - SINCERE - without hypocrisy – meaning our FAITH is genuine!
    - The word hypocrisy come from the Greek stage – those who wore masks...
    - The idea was who they looked like on the outside – was not who they really were!
    - Many years ago - I had a roommate in college who was Muslim...
    - At first he did not want me to talk about my God – he was content in his FAITH...
    - But one day he shared – all he had ever seen in Islam was hypocrisy...
    - And he wanted to know more about Jesus – because my faith was SINCERE!
    - Many today (*even in the church*) live in HYPOCRICY – people who say they have FAITH...
    - But in truth they just have a RELIGION – the DOCTINES of men – they use to hide their sin!
    - And the world sees right through their MASK – they are still the same sinners!
  - Through the DOCTRINE of God – people have SINCERE faith – **Romans 10:17**
    - And our conscience is clean – our sins are PAID in FULL...
    - All of our sins are wiped away – our hearts are made pure / filled with the Love of Jesus!
    - The Word of God can do what nothing else can – it can change the inside...
    - Only Jesus can bring lasting change - a transformed heart and give new life...
    - As we look to Jesus - we are changed from the inside out – **II Corinthians 5:17**
- 3<sup>RD</sup> – THE LAW OF GOD... VS. 6-11 (5 POINTS)

- o 1<sup>st</sup> – Some have STRAYED ... vs. 6
  - STRAYED – to miss the mark – shooting for a target but missing it completely...
    - Because they STRAYED (*more on how in a moment*) – they TURNED aside...
    - TURNED aside (*passive / indicative*) – used to describe a dislocated limb – twisted...
    - To IDLE talk – only here NT – literally empty or vain words (*no power*)!
  - Instead of teaching the Word – these men STRAYED and TURNED to their own ideas...
    - And since their IDLE talk had no power – those who listened were not changed!
    - **II Timothy 4:3** – “A time is coming when people will no longer listen to right teaching. They will... look for teachers who will tell them what they want to hear.”
    - Many churches today have forgotten the POWER of the Bible...
    - They are more interested in entertaining the people - than teaching them...
    - But the church is not a theatre or a show / it is a place to hear the Word of God...
    - Fancy production does not change lives / jokes cannot take away sin...
    - The power of salvation is in the Word of God – we need to TEACH the Word!
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> – HOW they STRAYED... vs. 7
  - They wanted to be teachers of the LAW...
    - Teachers of LAW – only used 3x in NT – used to describe RELIGIOUS leaders...
    - **Luke 5:17** – of those who scoffed at Jesus when he forgave / healed the lame man...
    - **Acts 5:34** – of Gamaliel – a teacher who was respected by MEN (*not God*) ...
    - These teachers had position – and recognition by others...
    - The problem was they did NOT understand / perceive - what they were saying...
    - NOR did they understand – the consequences of what they were CONFIRMING!
    - CONFIRMING – to strongly and confidently assert something as TRUTH!
  - Rather than teach the Word – they taught rules – the DOCTRINES of men...
    - It is easier for a leader to teach rules – because he can tell the people what to do...
    - But then rather than teaching the people to trust in God – they learn to listen to a man...
    - It makes a leader feel important / needed – but it will always fail...
    - Because we can tell people what to do – but we cannot change their hearts!
  - Ignorant examples...
    - I was talking to a pastor once about a ministry pamphlet...
    - Most of the pamphlet was just Bible verses – because the power is in the Word...
    - He argued with me – he had taken a course on HOW to impact people...
    - He had ideas on how to make the pamphlet better – none of which included the Word!
    - Most leaders sadly have no IDEA of what they are saying...
    - They just repeat – follow the example – of what they have been shown / told to do...
    - And they never stop to consider the impact / consequence of what that will do to others!
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> – The Law is good - when it is used lawfully... vs. 8
  - THE Law – speaking of THE Law of Moses – the 613 commands in the Torah / Pentateuch...
    - GOOD – *kalos* – the other word translated as GOOD in NT...
    - *Kalos* emphasizes the outward appearance of the goodness of something...
    - The Law is holy – the commandments of God are just and good – **Romans 7:12**...
    - The Law is perfect – but the problem is we are not perfect...
    - What the Law does is show us we are sinners – **Romans 7:7 / Galatians 3:24**
    - Once we see our sin – we understand our need for Jesus as a savior!
  - The problem comes when we try to use the Law to be a better person...
    - Like a speedometer – tell you how fast you are going – but cannot slow you down...
    - The Law can point out to us all our failures – showing us all our flaws...
    - The problem is it does nothing / can do nothing – to help us change!



- The Law only stirs in us the desire for sin...
  - Have you ever seen a sign that says WET PAINT – and felt the need to touch it...
  - Why is it the only toy a child wants – is the one they do not have!
  - The moment we are given a RULE / LAW we want to disobey it...
  - Because we are sinners – and the Law stirs up our sinful desires...
  - Those sins inevitably lead to death – physical death / spiritual death – **Romans 6:23**
- o 4<sup>th</sup> - The Law is made for those who the lawless... vs. 9-10
  - KNOWING – to see (*perfect*) – we ALL see the purpose of the Law...
    - If we are in line – waiting patiently for our turn to get lunch – no need for the LAW...
    - But the person who tries to cut the line – you point out the sign / LAW – no cutting!
    - The Law is NOT made for a righteous person – they are ALREADY doing what is RIGHT...
    - The Law is for the those who are LAWLESS – to show the error or their ways!
  - Paul lays out 5 GENERIC descriptions of those who are LAWLESS...
    - 1- *Insubordinate* – (*negative of hypotasso*) those who refuse to SUBMIT to God....
    - 2 - *Ungodly* – those who refuse to WORSHIP and revere God...
    - 3 - *Sinners* – literally those who have devoted their lives to sin...
    - 4 - *Unholy* – those who are NOT holy – NOT set apart for God...
    - 5 - *Profane* – the word means common – only thinking about the things of this world...
  - Paul lays out 6 SPECIFIC descriptions of those who are lawless...
    - 1 – *Murderers* – specifically of fathers and mothers...
    - This could mean they kill their own fathers and mothers...
    - But more likely – just man slayers – those who kill people who are fathers and mothers...
    - And they have no compassion for the families and children left behind!
    - 2 – *Fornicators* – pornos – male prostitute (*can also refer to any sexual act outside marriage*)
    - 3 – *Sodomites* – homosexuals – unquestionably a sin in the Bible – **Leviticus 18:22**
    - 4 – *Kidnappers* – those who sell men into slavery
    - 5 – *Liars* – those who do not tell the truth – this is where the list gets personal...
    - 6 – *Perjurers* – those who do not keep their word / break their promise – **James 5:12**
    - We might look at the list and think up till the last two we are doing pretty good...
    - But since when does lying or breaking a promise - equate to fornication or murder!
    - There are no LEVELS of sin with God – all sin is equal – all is punishable – **Romans 6:23**
    - **James 2:10** – “Whoever keeps the law, yet stumble in one point, is guilty of all.”
  - Paul concludes with a broad statement...
    - IF (*first class*) there is ANY other things contrary to sound / GODLY DOCTRINE...
    - The assumption is this is NOT an all-inclusive list – this is just a sample...
    - ANYONE who does ANYTHING contrary to GODLY DOCTRINE - is therefore LAWLESS!
    - And they need to be warned by the LAW - because they are NOT going to heaven!
    - **Galatians 5:21** – “Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”
    - Not to say that we never sin - but those who practice these things...
    - As believers – if we sin – there should be remorse – confession – repentance...
    - If there is no remorse – no repentance for sin – there is good reason for concern...
    - We cannot say we are saved and continue to live in unrepentant sin!
    - **I John 3:9** – “Whoever has been born of God does not [continue to] sin...”
- o 5<sup>th</sup> - Needing the Law... vs. 11
  - The Law will BREAK them – HUMBLE them – so they can receive the Glorious Gospel!
    - A wise man once told me – Grace sometimes has teeth...
    - What he meant is that in order for us to receive grace – we must be humbled...
    - And what humbles us is the LAW of God – it breaks us so God can heal us!

- As leaders we are called to stand up for the truth – teach the DOCTRINE of God...
- Not because we want to see people condemned – but so they can be broken...
- So - they can see how sinful they are – and run to Jesus!
- They can be SAVED – according to the Glorious Gospel...
  - We CANNOT save ourselves – we are saved ONLY through grace – **Ephesians 2:8-9**
  - So many people think that if they are good enough God will accept them...
  - But it is when God gets a hold of our life - changes our heart - we become good!
  - The cart does not push the caribou - the caribou pushes the cart...
  - Good works do not make us righteous - being right with God produces good works!
- Rules will NEVER make us grow in Jesus...
  - Here is the danger – rules can only control your actions - not change your heart...
  - It is God that changes our heart - so we no longer want to go the wrong way!
  - If we see someone struggling with their walk – do not give them rules...
  - Instead tell them the truth - IN LOVE – do not let them go on in their sin...
  - Give them Jesus - point them back to the one who can change their heart!