

FBC Jackson
Wednesday Night Teaching
1 Timothy 1:1-2: An Introduction

Introduction to this Series: 1 & 2 Timothy

Key Facts About 1 & 2 Timothy

- Author: Apostle Paul
- Destination: The Church in Ephesus
- Recipient: Timothy, one of the leaders of the Church in Ephesus
- One Purpose: Dealing with false teachers
- Main Purpose: Prepare the Church for the post-apostolic period

1 Timothy 1:3-4: *³As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, ⁴nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith."*

1 Timothy 3:14-15: *¹⁴I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth."*

New Testament Survey: "Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus make a unique and indispensable contribution to the writings of the NT. Supplementing Acts, they provide vital instructions regarding qualifications for church leaders and other important matters for governing and administering the church."

(Question): Why was it important for Paul to prepare the church for the day and age when the apostles eventually died out and went to be with the Lord Jesus Christ?

(Question): Why is it crucial to consider how a local church should function according to the Bible?

As we walk through 1 & 2 Timothy, let's seek a better understanding of God's Gospel and God's model for a healthy local church.

Introduction to this Class: 1 Timothy 1:1-2

This Evening: The Greeting

- Biblical survey of Paul
- Biblical survey of Timothy

1 Timothy 1:1-2: *Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, ²To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."*

1st Point: Paul, An Apostle of Jesus Christ

1 Timothy 1:1: *Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope. . .*

Knowledge of Pre-Conversion Paul

- A Hebrew of Hebrews
- An exceptional Pharisee

Philippians 3:4-5: *If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless."*

Galatians 1:14: “¹⁴And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.”

(Question): Why was Paul so zealous as a pharisee? What was he trying to do?

Knowledge of Paul's Conversion and Apostolic Commission

- Hostile to Christ & the Church
- He requested to go to the synagogues in Damascus
- Wanted to persecute Christians
- The Lord Jesus appeared to him
- The Lord Jesus saved him
- The Lord Jesus commissioned him to be an Apostle to the Gentiles

Acts 9:1-2: “*But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.*”

Acts 26:14-18: “¹⁴And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ ¹⁵And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you,’ ¹⁷delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you ¹⁸to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’”

(Question): 1) What is an apostle according to the New Testament?

Stott: “He was not one of the ‘apostles of the churches,’ whom today we might call ‘missionaries.’ On the contrary, he was an apostle of Christ, chosen, called, appointed, equipped, and authorized directly by Christ, without any ecclesiastical mediation.”

(Question): How come it's so helpful to think through the apostle Paul's conversion?

1 Timothy 1:16: “¹⁶But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.”

Knowledge of Paul's Letters

- Paul wrote 13 letters
- 9 out of 13 times, he begins his letters with his apostleship
- We see this in 1 & 2 Timothy

1 Timothy 1:1: “*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope. . .*”

2 Timothy 1:1: “*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God. . .*”

(Question): How should this influence our study of 1 & 2 Timothy?

Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible: “Known as Saul of Tarsus before his conversion to Christianity and the most influential leader in the early days of the Christian church. Through his missionary journeys to Asia Minor and Europe, Paul was the primary instrument in the expansion of the gospel to the Gentiles. Moreover, his letters to various churches and individuals contain the most thorough and deliberate theological formulations of the NT.”

2nd Point: Timothy, the Apostle Paul's Spiritual Child

1 Timothy 1:2: *"² To Timothy, my true child in the faith. . . "*

Knowledge of Timothy's Family

- Name: One who honors God
- His mother was a Christian
- His father wasn't a Christian
- Instructed in the Christian faith from a young age

Acts 16:1: *"Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek."*

2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15: *"⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. . . ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."*

Knowledge of Timothy's Conversion and Ministry Endeavors

- Became a Christian at a young age
- Became Paul's spiritual son
- Labored alongside of Paul
- Visited churches on Paul's behalf
- Spent a long time in Ephesus

Acts 16:2: *"² He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium."*

(Question): What do we learn about conversion when we compare Paul and Timothy's conversion to Christianity?

Acts 16:1-3: *"Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ² He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. ³ Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him,"*

2 Corinthians 1:1: *"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,"*

Colossians 1:1: *"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,"*

1 Thessalonians 3:1-3: *"Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, ² and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, ³ that no one be moved by these afflictions."*

Philippians 2:19-20: *"¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰ For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare."*

Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary on Ephesus: *"One of the largest and most impressive cities in the ancient world, a political, religious, and commercial center in Asia Minor. Associated with the ministries of Paul, Timothy, & the Apostle John, the city played a significant role in the spread of early Christianity. Ephesus and its inhabitants are mentioned more than 20 times in the NT."*

Knowledge of Timothy as a Person

- Really young when he met Paul
- Young when Paul wrote 1st Timothy
- Young when Paul wrote 2nd Timothy
- His temper: shy and timid
- His health: frequently ill

1 Timothy 4:12: *¹²Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.*

2 Timothy 2:22: *²²So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*

Stott: “So how old was he? It seems unlikely that the apostle would have invited Timothy to join his mission team before he had reached his late teens or early twenties, in which case now, about thirteen or fourteen years later, he would be in his mid-thirties.”

2 Timothy 1:6-7: *⁶For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”*

2 Timothy 1:8: *⁸Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,”*

1 Timothy 5:23: *²³(No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.)*

Stott: “Most readers find Timothy a very congenial character. We feel that he is one of us in all our frailty. He was very far from being a stained-glass saint. A halo would not have fitted comfortably on his head. No, the evidence is plain that he was a real human being like us, with all the infirmity and vulnerability which that entails.”

3rd Point: The Salutation

1 Timothy 1:2: *“Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Gifts from our heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus

- Grace: God’s kindness to the guilty and undeserving
- Mercy: God’s pity on the wretched
- Peace: Reconciliation to God
- We receive these in the gospel
- With God’s blessing, we continue to receive these in the New Testament Epistles

If we come faithfully, eagerly, and attentively to 1 Timothy, God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ will pour grace, mercy, and peace into our souls. This will further conform us into the image of Christ.

Conclusion

This was a brief overview of Paul’s initial greeting in 1 Timothy. Next week, we will start studying the body of Paul’s letter.

FBC Jackson
Wednesday Night Teaching
1 Timothy 1:3-11: Stop False Teachers

Introduction: 1 Timothy 1:3-11

The Major Themes in 1 Timothy

- One Purpose: Dealing with false teachers
- Main Purpose: Prepare the church for the post-apostolic period

1 Timothy 1:3-4: *³As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, ⁴nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith."*

1 Timothy 3:14-15: *¹⁴I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth."*

This evening, we'll hear Paul instructing Timothy on how to confront false teachers who pose a threat to the church in Ephesus.

(Questions): 1) How would you define a false teacher? 2) How would you define false teaching?

The Major Catalyst Behind False Teaching

- Satan: the prince of demons
- Demons: Satan's minions

1 Timothy 4:1-5 (ESV): *"Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons. . ."*

1 Timothy 4:1 (KJV): *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;"*

(Question): Why might Satan be hell-bent on infiltrating Christ's church with false teachers?

John 8:44: *⁴⁴You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*

The Major Concern When Paul Left Ephesus

- False teachers would rise up
- False teachers began to appear

Acts 20:26-31: *²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, ²⁷for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert."*

1 Timothy 1:3: *³As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine. . ."*

This was inevitable in Ephesus. Anywhere you see a genuine work of God, you can expect to see satanic assaults on the truth of God's Word.

1st Point: A Proper View of False and True Doctrine (Verses 3-7)

1 Timothy 1:3-7: “³As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, ⁴nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. ⁵The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, ⁷desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.”

Not All Doctrines Are the Same

- There's sound doctrine
- There is a body of doctrine that is true, biblical, healthy, profitable, and beneficial
- And there's false doctrine
- There are different doctrines that are false, unbiblical, unhealthy, and unprofitable

1 Timothy 1:3: “³As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine,

1 Timothy 6:2-4: “Teach and urge these things. ³If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, ⁴he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing.”

(Questions): 1) How does this go against our tolerant and pluralistic society? 2) Why is this truth (the reality of sound and false doctrine) so important for our local church to understand and grasp?

Stott: “But pluralism as an ideology is increasingly advocated as ‘politically correct.’ This affirms the independent validity of every religion as a culturally conditioned phenomenon and frowns on any attempt to convert people. Indeed, one of the chief tenets of ‘postmodernism’ is that there is no such thing as objective truth, let alone universal and eternal truth. On the contrary, everybody has his or her own truth. You have yours, and I have mine, and they may diverge widely from each other, even contradict each other. In consequence, the most prized virtue is tolerance. It tolerates everything except the intolerance of those who insist that certain ideas are true and others false, while certain practices are good and others evil.”

Paul's Doctrinal Concern

- Former plea: charge people not to teach any different doctrine
- Present plea: Charge people not to teach any different doctrine
- The Apostle Paul is refreshing his standing order!
- Refutation of false doctrine: An important qualification of a pastor

Robert Yarbrough: “Timothy's continued tenure at Ephesus has a distinct purpose: to put a stop to heretical teaching at Ephesus.”

Paul is consistently concerned about false doctrine creeping into the church in Ephesus, and he wants Timothy to do something about it!

Titus 1:9: “⁹He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.”

(Question): Why might a pastor neglect his God-given duty to rebuke those who teach false doctrine?

The Nature and Effects of False Doctrine

- The Nature of False Doctrine
- **6:4-5:** Stems from pride & greed
- **1:4:** Myths and genealogies
- **1:7-8:** Unlawful use of the law
- **4:3:** Forbid marriage
- **4:3:** Abstinence from certain food
- **4:7:** Irreverent and silly myths
- The Effects of False Doctrine
- **1:4:** Useless speculations
- **1:6:** Vain discussions
- **4:1:** Departure from the faith
- **6:4:** Lots of division and sin within the church

1 Timothy 6:2-5: “Teach and urge these things. ³If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, ⁴he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, ⁵and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.”

Robert Yarbough: “But Paul’s meaning is clear, as he uses it to describe what “myths and endless genealogies” encourage and lead to: baseless inferences and convictions. In modern-day terms, it would be like imagining what aliens from other galaxies or zombies might mean for everyday life and redemption. The concern of the gospel and its servants like Paul and Timothy is not fantasy but rather “God’s work.”

The Nature and Effects of True Doctrine

- The Nature of True Doctrine
- **1:5:** stems from love, a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere heart
- **4:6:** In accordance with apostolic doctrine
- The Effects of True Doctrine
- **4:16:** Leads to salvation
- **6:2-3:** Accords with godliness
- SOUND Doctrine = HEALTHY Doctrine

1 Timothy 1:5: “⁵The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

1 Timothy 4:6: “If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.”

1 Timothy 4:16: “¹⁶Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

1 Timothy 6:2-3: “Teach and urge these things. ³If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness,”

Stott: “The ultimate criteria by which to judge any teaching are whether it promotes the glory of God and the good of the church. The doctrine of the false teachers did neither. It promoted speculation and controversy instead.”

(Question): How does this reveal the goodness of God and the beauty of the doctrines in God’s Word?

2nd Point: A Proper View of God's Law (Verses 8-11)

1 Timothy 1:8-11: [“]⁸ Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹ understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurors, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, ¹¹ in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.”

Lawful Use of the Law

- Punitive = Convicts & Condemns Sinners (points them to Jesus)
- Civil = Restraints evil
- Normative = Guides the righteous

Romans 3:19-20: [“]¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.”

(Question): How do righteous and just laws contribute to peace & harmony within any society?

John 14:15: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

These are the lawful uses of God's holy and righteous law!

Unlawful Use of the Law

- To attain a righteousness of our own
- To earn God's favor and acceptance
- As a means to be saved
- People kept stumbling over this
- The false teachers taught this

Romans 10:1-4: “Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.

² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

Roberty Yarbrough: “Paul is therefore reminding Timothy that God did not give the law as the means for guilty people to establish their righteousness by obeying God's commands. Rather, the OT in its richness and fullness relates the history of creation, fall, and redemption in a way that centers on God and his saving promises, culminating in Christ's coming, person, and work. In this account humans are transgressors in need of divinely bestowed forgiveness and new life through trust in their Redeemer, not moral agents with the potential to redeem themselves by their dogged faithfulness to what God requires of them in his law.”

The Second Tablet of God's Law

- Honor your father and mother →
- You shall not murder →
- You shall not commit adultery →
- You shall not steal →
- You shall not bear false witness →
- Strike their father and mother
- Murderers
- Sexually immoral and homosexuals
- Enslavers (man stealers)
- Liars and perjurors

The law is meant to convict and condemn the wicked so that the wicked might, in turn, seek refuge in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Conclusion

God was doing a work in Ephesus. False teachers were rising up. And Paul commands Timothy protect the church in Ephesus from false teachers and their teaching!

Applications

Always Remember!

- Danger outside the walls!
- Danger within the walls!

Acts 20:26-31: “²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert.”

1 Timothy 1:5-6: “⁵The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, ⁷desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.”

Never Trust a Teacher Because of Their Name, Charisma, or Reputation

- They can swerve
- They can wander
- Always use apostolic doctrine as the standard for faithful Bible teaching!

Know Sound Doctrine

- Know Scripture
- Dwell on Scripture
- Let your mind and heart be saturated with it

FBC Jackson
Wednesday Night Teaching
1 Timothy 1:12-20: Wage the Good Warfare

Overview of 1 Timothy

The Major Themes

- Addressing False Teachers
- Preparing the Church

1 Timothy 1:3-4: *³As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, ⁴nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith.”*

1 Timothy 3:14-15: *¹⁴I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.”*

Throughout this series, we'll aim to gain a better understanding of two things: 1) Good, sound doctrine, and 2) How a local church should function.

Review: 1 Timothy 1:3-11

Paul Told Timothy to Deal with False Teachers

- There's good sound doctrine
- There's any other doctrine
- Those who teach any other doctrine must be addressed

False teaching harms the teacher and those whom they teach. It must be addressed!

Introduction: 1 Timothy 1:12-20

1,000 Foot Overview

- Paul shares his personal testimony
- Lifts up the power of the gospel
- Marvels at the gospel
- Timothy: wage the good warfare
- An Example of Good Warfare

Contextual Aids

- Christ didn't appoint the FT
- The FT appointed themselves
- Paul didn't appoint himself
- Christ appointed Paul
- The FT misused the law
- Taught that it could save
- In Paul's life, the gospel did what the law could not do!

1 Timothy 1:7: *⁷desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.”*

1 Timothy 1:11: *¹¹in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.”*

1 Timothy 1:8: *⁸Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully,”*

(Question): 1) How were these false teachers unlawfully using the law of God? 2) Why would such a teaching harm the church's health?

1 Timothy 1:15: *¹⁵The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”*

John Berridge: “Run, John, and work, the law commands, / yet gives me neither feet nor hands, / But sweeter news the gospel brings, / it bids me fly and gives me wings!”

1st Point: Paul and the Gospel of God's Grace and Mercy (verses 12-17)

1 Timothy 1:12-17: *"¹² I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³ though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."*

Contra to the law, the Gospel of Jesus Christ can save sinners, even sinners like Paul himself!

The Source & Purpose of Grace and Mercy (12)

- The Source
- Jesus Christ our Lord
- The Purpose
- Saves, strengthens, & employs

Ephesians 2:8a: "For by grace you have been saved through faith."

Hebrews 13:9: "⁹ Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them."

Philip Hughes: "When he says that the heart is strengthened not by foods but by grace, he plainly means that a person experiences spiritual strength by the reception of grace, .."

1 Corinthians 15:10: "¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me."

Gordan Fee: "That is, even my intense labors in the gospel are ultimately not the result of a personal need to compensate God for his grace, but are themselves the reflection of that very grace at work in my life."

(Question): Why is this dynamic and multi-faceted view of grace so helpful?

The Need for Grace and Mercy (13)

- Blasphemer: Evil, slanderous speech
- Persecutor: Systematically oppress
- Insolent opponent: violent man
- Ignorance & unbelief: zeal without knowledge

Acts 8:3: "³ But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison."

This man was a wretch! No one seemed further from the kingdom of heaven and the salvation that is found in Christ than Paul!

The Measure of Grace and Mercy (14)

- Grace of our Lord overflowed for me
- Grace of our Lord abounded
- Grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant

Julia Johnston: "Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, / Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt! / Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured. / There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt. / Grace, grace, God's grace, / Grace that will pardon and cleanse within; / Grace, grace, God's grace, / Grace that is greater than all our sin!"

The Purpose of Grace and Mercy (15-16)

- Christ came to save sinners
- He came on a rescue mission to save sinners
- He saved Paul, the foremost of sinners
- To display his patience

1 Timothy 1:15-16: “¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.”

Kostenberger: “Paul’s conversion from persecutor of the church to fervent propagator of the gospel serves as a characteristic pattern of God’s merciful dealings with his people.”

Paul’s salvation serves as an everlasting testimony to the grace, mercy, and patience of the Lord Jesus Christ. Not a single sinner living is beyond the scope of Christ’s saving power!

The Proper Response to Grace and Mercy (12 & 17)

- Thanksgiving (at the beginning)
- Worship (at the end)

(Question): Why is thanksgiving such a God-honoring way to respond to this great salvation we have in Christ?

Verse 17: “¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”

(Question): How come this great salvation we have in Christ should lead to Spirit-inflamed worship of the one true God?

If that doesn’t make you want to defend good gospel doctrine, then I don’t know what will!

2nd Point: Timothy Must Wage the Good Fight (18-19a)

1 Timothy 1:18-19a: “¹⁸ This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, ¹⁹ holding faith and a good conscience.”

Paul’s Charge To His Spiritual Son

- In accordance with your ordination
- Wage the good warfare

(Questions): 1) Why does Paul equate gospel ministry with warfare? 2) What kind of weapons do we fight with?

2 Corinthians 10:5-6: “⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, ⁶ being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.”

Ephesians 6:17: “and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,”

In War, Two Things That Must Be Guarded

- Faith: Sound Doctrine
- A Good Conscience: Morals
- In other words... don’t become like the false teachers!

As we wage good warfare, we must hold our faith and our morals. If we let go of either one of these, we let go of it all.

3rd Point: Paul Has Been Waging the Good Warfare (19b-20)

1 Timothy 1:19b-20: “*By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith,²⁰ among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.*”

False Teachers

- They rejected the faith
- They rejected sound doctrine
- They rejected a good conscience
- They went headlong into sin

One Pastor: “A bad conscience is the mother of all heresies.”

Stott: “I have myself known Christian leaders who once were faithful teachers, but who, as a result of some stubborn disobedience in their lives, turned aside from the truth and so ruined their ministry.”

Two Examples

- Hymenaeus
- Alexander

2 Timothy 2:16-19: “¹⁶But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness,¹⁷ and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,¹⁸ who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.¹⁹ But God’s firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”

These two men swerved from the truth and began to teach unsound doctrine and to live immoral lives.

How Paul Confronted Them

- Paul handed them over to Satan
- Church discipline

(Question): What do you think Paul means when he says that he, “Handed them over to Satan?”

1 Corinthians 5:2, 4-5: “*Let him who has done this be removed from among you. When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.*”

Stott: “Radical though this punishment is, it is not permanent or irrevocable. Its purpose is remedial, ‘in the hope that through his discipline’ the offenders may *be taught not to blaspheme*. The implication is that, once the lesson has been learned, the excommunicated person may be restored to the fellowship.”

Conclusion

The beauty and power of the gospel gives us incentive to rebuke and discipline false teachers.

Application

Marvel at the Gospel

- Christ came to save sinners
- Christ saved us!
- Never get over your conversion!

Fight False Teaching

- It’s a deviation from sound doctrine
- It replaces faith with speculation
- It replaces love with dissension

FBC Jackson
Wednesday Night Teaching
1 Timothy 2:1-7: Pray for All People

Overview of 1 Timothy

The Major Themes

- Addressing False Teachers
- Preparing the Church

1 Timothy 1:3: “³As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine . . .”

1 Timothy 3:14-15: “¹⁴I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.”

We'll seek to better understand good, sound doctrine and how a local church should function.

Review: 1 Timothy 1

Paul Told Timothy to Deal with False Teachers (Verses 3-11)

- There's good sound doctrine
- There's any other doctrine

False teaching harms the teacher and those whom they teach. It must be addressed!

Paul Told Timothy the Beauty and Glory of the Gospel (Verses 12-20)

- Christ saved and strengthened Paul
- Timothy, wage the good warfare
- Christ thrust Paul into ministry
- Paul has waged the good warfare

1 Timothy 1:15: “¹⁵The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.”

1 Timothy 1:19-20: “Some have made shipwreck of their faith, ²⁰among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.”

The beauty & power of the gospel give us the incentive to rebuke and discipline false teachers.

Introduction: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

An Emphasis on All

- 2:1: “All people”
- 2:2: “Kings and all who are in authority”
- 2:4: “God desires all people to be saved”
- 2:6: “Christ died as a ransom for all”

In this section, Paul emphasizes the importance of praying for the salvation of all classes of people (even Kings), and all types of people (even Gentiles).

Why Such An Emphasis?

- FT: Jewish flavor (teachers of the law)
- FT: Elevated the Jews
- FT: Minimized the Gentiles

ESV Study Bible: “It appears that Paul is countering an exclusivist tendency in the false teachers or at least their downplaying of the importance of evangelizing the Gentiles (along with their emphasis on the Jewish law).”

1 Timothy 2:7: “For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.”

Because God's desire in Christ's death pertains to all classes and kinds of people, the church's prayers and proclamation must concern all classes and kinds of people!

1st Point: Paul Urges Us To Pray for All (verses 1-2)

1 Timothy 2:1-2: *"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way."*

The Priority of Prayer (1)

- First of all . . . Pray
- Not time but importance
- Urge: Implore; exhort; ask earnestly
- 4 Words for Prayer

(Question): Why do you think local churches and Christians should prioritize prayer?

But as a local church, and as individual Christians, what should we prioritize in prayer?

Pray for All People (1)

- God's Desire: To save the nations
- Jesus: The Savior of the world
- Of Jews & Gentiles, rich & poor
- To save people from every tongue, tribe, people, and nation
- The temptation: God only wants to save people like us
- Think about Jonah and Peter
- FT: Salvation is for the Jews

Isaiah 49:6: *"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant / to raise up the tribes of Jacob / and to bring back the preserved of Israel; / I will make you as a light for the nations, / that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."*

Revelation 5:9: *"Worthy are you to take the scroll / and to open its seals, / for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God / from every tribe and language and people and nation,"*

(Question): Why might we, as a local church, become negligent in praying for the salvation of all people (every tribe and language and people and nation)?

Jonah 4:1-2: *"But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. ² And he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster."*

Acts 10:28: *"And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean."*

Paul urges Timothy and the church in Ephesus to pray all sorts of prayers for all sorts of people (both Jews and Gentiles).

For Example, Even Pray for Kings and Other Rulers (2)

- Pray for their salvation
- Pray for prudent governance

(Question): Why might kings and rulers be the ones we're least likely to pray for?

(Question): How does a civil and decent government help the church live a peaceful, quiet, godly, and dignified life?

Stott: *"The ultimate object of our prayers for national leaders, then, is that in the context of the peace they reserve, religion and morality can flourish, and evangelism go forward without interruption."*

Platt: *"The progress of the gospel in the world is dependent on the prayers of God's people in the church."*

2nd Point: Theological Reason #1: God Desires The Salvation Of All (Verses 3-4)

1 Timothy 2:3-4: *"³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*

First, God Desires All To Be Saved (Verse 4)

- God doesn't just desire the Jews
- He also desires the Gentiles
- He doesn't just desire Americans
- He desires Nicaraguans
- He doesn't just desire the poor
- He desires the rich
- He doesn't just desire peasants
- He desires kings

Luke 2:27-32: *"²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, / ²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, / according to your word; / ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation / ³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, / ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, / and for glory to your people Israel."*

(Questions): 1) What does it mean to come to a knowledge of the truth? 2) Why do you think Paul equates salvation with coming to a knowledge of the truth?

Our most glorious and gracious God desires the salvation of all people. In other words, no people groups or classes are excluded from this great salvation offered in Christ our Lord!

God is Pleased When We Pray for All to Be Saved (Verse 3)

- When our prayers go against God's desires, He is displeased
- When our prayers align with God's desires, He is pleased!

One Pastor's Account: "Some years ago, I attended public worship in a certain church. The pastor was absent on holiday, and a lay elder led the pastoral prayer. He prayed that the pastor might enjoy a good vacation (which was fine), and that two lady members of the congregation might be healed (which was also fine; We should pray for the sick). But that was all. The intercession can hardly have lasted 30 seconds. I came away saddened, sensing that this church worshipped a little village God of their own devising. There was no recognition of the needs of the world, and no attempt to embrace the world in prayer."

(Question): Why might a consistent pattern of prayers like this be unhealthy for the church and displeasing to our heavenly Father?

Because God desires the salvation of all people, our evangelistic prayers should be on behalf of all people!

3rd Point: Theological Reasoning #2: Christ Died as a Ransom for All (Verses 5-6)

1 Timothy 2:5-6: *"⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time."*

We Believe in One God (verse 5)

- We don't believe in many gods
- We believe in one God

(Question): How does a robust understanding of monotheism fuel prayer for all peoples?

We Believe in the Exclusivity of Christ

- Not many ways to this 1 God
- Only 1 way to this 1 God
- The man Christ Jesus!

John 14:6: “⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Acts 4:12: “¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

(Question): How does a robust understanding of the exclusivity of Christ fuel prayer for all peoples?

We Believe Christ Died for All

- Christ died as a ransom
- Christ did not die just for the Jews
- Christ did not die just for the Gentiles
- Christ did not die just for kings
- Christ did not die just for peasants
- Christ died for all

Definition of Ransom: “Price for redeeming or liberating slaves, captives, property, or life. Jesus describes his entire ministry as one of service in giving his life “as a ransom for many” (Mt 20:28; Mk 10:45). Hence “ransom” is closely linked to such terms as “redemption” and “salvation,” to the satisfaction Christ made in atonement for sin.”

Matthew 20:26-28: “*But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave,²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*”

Revelation 5:9: “*Worthy are you to take the scroll / and to open its seals, / for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God / from every tribe and language and people and nation,*”

Because Christ died as a ransom for all people, our evangelistic prayers should be on behalf of all people!

4th Point: Just Think About Paul’s Apostleship (Verse 7)

1 Timothy 2:7: “*For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.*”

Divine Commission

- Paul didn’t appoint himself
- Christ appointed Paul
- Preacher (a herald... a proclaimer)
- Apostle (authoritative witness of the Lord Jesus Christ)
- Teacher (one who instructs)

1 Timothy 1:1: “*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope...*”

1 Timothy 1:12: “¹²*I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service...*”

The God who desires all to be saved authoritatively appointed Paul to be a preacher, apostle, and teacher. And what was Paul’s primary purpose as a preacher, apostle, and teacher?

The Primary Purpose of His Ministry

- Not to evangelize Jews
- But to evangelize Gentiles

Acts 9:15-16: “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶*For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.*”

Galatians 2:7-8: “⁷ On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised ⁸ (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles),”

Romans 15:15-16: “¹⁵ But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God ¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.”

The God who desires all to be saved commissioned Paul as an apostle to the Gentiles, to preach and teach them about the Lord Jesus Christ who died as a ransom for all!

Conclusion

The church must never neglect praying for the salvation all people.

Applications

Never Overlook Any Class or Type of People

- Don't overlook men or women
- Don't overlook the rich or the poor
- Don't overlook whites or blacks
- Don't overlook Europeans or Palestinians

God desires the salvation of all of them. Christ died as a ransom for all of them. Let us pray for all of them!

Let's Be A Praying Church

(Question): How can we be more faithful in praying for all people?

FBC Jackson
Wednesday Night Teaching
1 Timothy 2:8-15: Men and Women in the Church

Overview of 1 Timothy: Major Themes

Addressing False Teachers // 1 Timothy 1:3: *"³As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine . . ."*

Preparing the Church // 1 Timothy 3:14-15: *"¹⁴I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth."*

We'll seek to better understand sound doctrine and how a local church should function.

Review: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Praying for All People

- God desires all to be saved
- Christ died as a ransom for all
- Paul: Apostle to the Gentiles
- We should pray for all!

Because God's desire in Christ's death concerns all classes and kinds of people, the church's prayers and proclamation must concern all classes and kinds of people!

Introduction: 1 Timothy 2:8-15

How the Local Church Should Function

- The roles of men
- The roles of women

In this section, Paul gives us one of his clearest teachings on the respective roles and behaviors of men and women whenever the church gathers for worship!

(Questions): 1) Why is it so important for us to gain a biblical understanding of the roles of men & women in the local church? **2)** Why is this a controversial topic, especially today?

It may be controversial, but as Bible-believing Christians, we must go where the Bible goes—more than that, we must joyfully go where the Bible goes!

1st Point: Men, Pray with Holy Hands (Verse 8)

1 Timothy 2:8: *"⁸I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling . . ."*

Paul Is Not Concerned About Physical Posture in Prayer

- People stand, sit, and kneel down to pray
- People lift their hands, beat their chests, and fall flat to pray

Mark 11:25: *"²⁵And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone. . . ."*

2 Samuel 7:18: *"¹⁸King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, "Who am I, O Lord.. ."*

Acts 7:60: *"⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep."*

Psalm 134:2: *"²Lift up your hands to the holy place / and bless the Lord!"*

Luke 18:13: *"¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'*

There are various physical postures in prayer, but the most crucial aspect of our postures is that they express our inner devotion to the Lord.

Paul is Concerned About The Posture of the Heart

- Lifting HOLY Hands
- Holiness, purity, & innocence
- As opposed to UNHOLY hands
- Sinful, bloody, guilty
- This is why he says, “*without anger or quarreling.*”

Psalm 18:24 “So the LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanliness of my hands in his sight.”

Psalm 24:3-4 “Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.”

Main point: Our prayers should be accompanied by a holy life, purity of heart, and a clear conscience!

The Danger of Unholy Hands

- Hindered prayers
- Unacceptable worship

1 Peter 3:7 “Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.”

Matthew 5:23-24: “²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

(Question): What does this teach us about God and the kind of worship that's acceptable to Him?

2nd Point: Women, Adorn Yourselves with Modest Apparel & Good Works (Verses 9-10)

1 Timothy 2:9-10: “⁹ likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰ but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.”

Christian Women, Don't Dress This Way . . .

- Don't dress sensually (immmodestly)
- Don't dress excessively (ritzy)
- This is what worldly women in Ephesus highly valued
- This is what worldly women today highly value
- Christian women must not fall prey to this way of thinking

1 Peter 3:3-4: “³ Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— ⁴ but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.”

(Question): How might sensual and excessive dress hinder and hurt the church as they gather to worship the Lord Jesus Christ?

Christian women must take a different approach than the world. Their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ should heavily influence how they adorn themselves!

Christian Women, Dress This Way . . .

- With what's proper for a Christian woman
- With modesty (decency)
- With self-control (with good sense)
- With good works

Ask These questions: 1) Is this fitting for a Christian woman? 2) Can I wear this to the glory of God? 3) How might this impact those around me? 4) Would this be a distraction? 5) Would Christ be pleased or grieved with me if I wore this?

Most Importantly, Adorn Yourself With Good Works! Walk into Church having. . .

- Faithfully served the Lord
- Feasted on the word of God
- Prayed for and evangelized the lost
- Served a fellow Christian
- Cooked a meal for a family in need

When you walk into Church, be known as a woman who has relentlessly poured herself out as a sacrificial offering to the Lord Jesus Christ!

3rd Point: Women, Joyfully Accept Your Role in the Local Church (Verses 11-15)

1 Timothy 2:11-15: “¹¹Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.”

Context: Who Has God Called to Teach and Lead in the Local Church?

- 1 Timothy 2:11-15
- Women aren't permitted to teach or lead
- 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- Godly men, as qualified by Scripture, are permitted to teach and lead

1 Timothy 2:11-12: “¹¹Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.”

1 Timothy 3:1-2: “The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ²Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach. . .”

1 Timothy 5:17: “¹⁷Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.”

Because the Church is the household of God, God has given clear roles to men and women within the church. And in 1 Timothy 2:11-3:7, Paul will clearly explain whom God has permitted to teach and lead the local church.

Verse 11: In the context of corporate worship, let a woman do this. . .

- Instead of teaching
- They should learn quietly
- Instead of leading
- They should submit

1 Timothy 2:1-2: “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.”

1 Peter 3:4-6: “⁴but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. ⁵For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, ⁶as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord.”

Kevin DeYoung: “Quietness or silence is not meant to be demeaning. Both are positive qualities for the learner. . . In the context of corporate worship, women are not to be teachers, but quiet learners.”

Köstenberger: “‘Quietly’ here therefore conveys submissiveness to Christian teachers in contrast to rebellion against authority. Just as Paul elsewhere calls wives to submit to their husbands at home, he here extends the principle to the church, understood as God’s household, where women are called to submit to the teaching and ruling authority of the church.”

Verse 12: *In the context of corporate worship, women shouldn’t do this. . .*

- They shouldn’t teach a man
- Or exercise authority over a man

Verse 12: “¹² *I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.*”

Köstenberger: “Paul prohibits women from teaching, understood as ‘the authoritative and public transmission of tradition about Christ and the Scripture,’ which is usually a function of the elders or overseers. . . . Women should not be put in positions of ultimate leadership over the church and serve as elders or pastor-teachers.”

Kevin DeYoung: “God desires women to be silent and submissive in the church, which means that women should not be public teachers over men nor exercise authority over men.”

Baptist Faith and Message 2000: “Its two scriptural offices are that of pastor/elder/overseer and deacon. *While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.*”

That’s a bold statement, Paul! You better back it up!

Verse 13: Reason 1: Order of Creation

- Think back to the creation
- Think back to God’s good design
- Adam was formed first
- Eve was formed last
- Eve was created after Adam
- Eve was created from Adam
- Eve was created for Adam
- Eve was brought to Adam
- Eve was named by Adam

Verse 13: “¹³ *For Adam was formed first, then Eve;*”

(Question): Paul mentions creation to back up his original statements about women in the church. So, how does the creation account back up Paul’s statements about women?

EVERYTHING IS HEALTHIER WHEN IT FUNCTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD’S GOOD DESIGN.

Verse 14: Reason 2: Just Think Back to the Fall

- Creation // Genesis 2
- God’s good order
- God
- Man
- Woman
- The Fall // Genesis 3
- Satan’s great reversal
- Satan
- Woman
- Man

Verse 14: “¹⁴ *and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.*”

Kevin DeYoung: “Paul may be making a statement about what happens when the roles of men and women are reversed. Adam was supposed to be the head, responsible for loving headship and direction. But he abdicated his role, and Eve’s leadership influenced him for evil. As a

result of this role reversal, sin entered the world. On this understanding, Paul is pointing to the difference between the two guilty persons: Adam sinned openly, but Eve was deceived. In highlighting this difference, Paul may be grounding his argument in God's design for men and women, which was tragically supplanted in the fall."

The fall of humanity was triggered by a woman yielding to the temptation of stepping outside her God-given role. The church in Ephesus, and every local church throughout the ages, must not follow in the steps of Eve when she was at her worst.

Verse 15: Instead, Christian Women Need to Embrace God's Design

- Some interpretations
- Justification: Justified through childbirth
- Redemptive: Be saved through the birth of a child: Jesus
- My PICK: Sanctification
- A woman doesn't work out her salvation as a teacher and leader in the church
- A woman works out her salvation by seeking to honor the Lord as a wife, mother, and homemaker

Verse 15: *"¹⁵ Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control."*

Kostenberger: "The first woman didn't adhere to her proper domain and consequently fell into sin. How will women in the church age avoid succumbing to the same fate? They'll be preserved from Satan if they adhere to their God-given role focused on their family and home."

Kevin DeYoung: "Giving birth is one of the ways in which a woman demonstrates obedience to her God-given identity. Instead of casting off all order and decency, a godly woman embraces her true femininity in dressing modestly, learning quietly, bearing children, and continuing in faith, love, and holiness. Understandably, some women will not have children because of medical reasons or singleness, but in so far as it is possible, childbearing is one of the unique ways in which a woman can accept, in obedience, her God-given design."

4th Point: The Hard Part!

This Text Is Clear About What Women Are Not Permitted to Do!

- Women cannot be pastors
- Women cannot lead like pastors
- Women cannot function like pastors (teaching & preaching) during corporate worship

The Bible is Clear About What Women Are Permitted to Do!

- Pray, pray, pray
- Minister to the sick and dying
- Minister to the mentally impaired
- Minister to the physically handicap
- Minister to single moms
- Minister new moms
- Minister to the nations
- Minister to women in jail
- Evangelize the lost
- Give to the needy
- Give to the ministries of the church
- Give to gospel advancement
- Practice hospitality
- Write helpful books for the church
- Counsel, mentor, & teach women
- Counsel, mentor, & teach children
- Organize events
- Love their husbands and children
- Embrace singleness to the glory of God
- And a billion other things!

We're Left to Prudence and Wisdom on Other Things! Can a Christian woman. . . .

- Teach a co-ed youth Sunday school class?
- Teach a co-ed adult Sunday school class?
- Teach a co-ed Bible study on Tuesday night
- Teach a co-ed audience at a Christian conference?
- Teach a co-ed seminary class on pastoral counseling?
- Teach at a Golden Spoon event?
- On so on and so forth!

At the end of the day, it ought to be overwhelmingly apparent that the local church is led and taught by godly men as qualified by Scripture! If a church deviates from this, they have deviated from God's design for the church, the household of the living God!

Conclusions

The church is the household of God. In it, men and women have particular roles. The church functions best when men and women joyfully embrace these roles.

Applications

Pray with Holy Hands

- Repent of sin
- Put sin to death
- Pursue a holy life, a pure heart, and a clear conscience

Dress Appropriately

- Don't flaunt your body
- Don't flaunt your wealth
- Adorn yourselves with modesty
- Adorn yourselves with good works

Women

- Learn all you can
- Do all that's permitted
- Don't do what's forbidden
- Find joy in your role in the local church

FBC Jackson
Wednesday Night Teaching
1 Timothy 3:1-7: Qualifications for Overseers

Overview of 1 Timothy: Major Themes

Addressing False Teachers // 1 Timothy 1:3: *"³ As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine. . ."*

Preparing the Church // 1 Timothy 3:14-15: *"¹⁴ I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵ if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth."*

We'll seek to better understand sound doctrine and how a local church should function.

Review: 1 Timothy 2:8-15

- Men, Pray With Holy Hands
- Women, Adorn Yourselves with Modest Apparel & Good Works
- Women, Joyfully Accept Your Role in the Local Church

Paul began to give us some clear instructions on how men and women are to conduct themselves in the church, the household of the living God!

Introduction: 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Remember The Context: Who Has God Called to Teach and Lead in the Local Church?

- 1 Timothy 2:11-15
- Women aren't permitted to teach or lead over men
- 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- Godly men, as qualified by Scripture, are permitted to teach and lead

1 Timothy 2:11-12: *"¹¹ Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet."*

1 Timothy 3:1-2: *"The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ² Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach. . ."*

The church is God's household, & within God's household, women & men have distinct roles.

Our Purpose Tonight

- Study 1 Timothy 3:1-7
- Think about the office of overseer
- Walk through the qualifications of an overseer

(Questions): 1) Though most of you will never become overseers/elders/pastors, why is it important to think through passages laying out the qualifications of overseers/elders/pastors?

(Question): Even though I'm already an overseer/elder/pastor, why is it important for me to walk through this passage?

This Scripture, just like all Scripture, is "breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training up in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

1st Point: The Office of Overseer (Verse 1)

1 Timothy 3:1: “*The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.*”

The Office of Overseer

- The terms “overseer” & “elder” are used synonymously
- The term “pastor” is used once as a title
- It is used numerous times as the function of an “overseer” & “elder”
- Thus, the office of overseer, elder, and pastor is synonymous

Acts 20:17-18, 28: “¹⁷ Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸ And when they came to him, he said to them ²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.”

Titus 1:5, 7: “⁵ This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you. . . . ⁷ For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach.”

Ephesians 4:11-12: “¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. . .”

1 Peter 5:1-2: “*So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;*”

Baptist Faith and Message 2000: “In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its two scriptural offices are that of pastor/elder/overseer and deacon. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.”

The Work of an Overseer

- If you aspire (desire) to the office of overseer
- You desire a noble task (a noble work)

(Question): What are the dangers of aspiring to the office of overseer/elder/pastor without aspiring to the work of an overseer/elder/pastor?

(Question): Why is shepherding and overseeing the church of God a noble work, an important, beautiful, and good work?

Stott: “The pastorate is a noble task, because it involves the care and nurture of the people of God . . .”

Alexander Strauch: “To God, the Church is the most precious thing on earth. In the face of many problems and labors, the greatest encouragement and incentive an elder can have is to know that he performs an exceedingly excellent work—one that is worthy of the sacrifice of one’s life.”

The office of overseer consists of noble work. Thus, an overseer must be a noble person. And “to assure that only men of noble, good character assume the role of overseer, Paul provides the church with public, observable qualifications to protect both the office and the church.”

2nd Point: The Qualifications of an Overseer

1 Timothy 3:2-7: “²Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church? ⁶He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.”

Overview of Qualifications

- 14 qualifications
- These should characterize all Christians
- These should be normal for every Christian in the church

Phil Newton: “Paul’s goal in listing the character traits in 1 Timothy 3 was not to develop a ‘super Christian’ who soared above ordinary Christians. Rather, he identified those traits that should characterize *Christians*. Aside from ‘able to teach,’ there are really no qualities asked of elders that should not be normal for every Christian in the local church.”

This teaches us that Paul is not after men who are super Christians; he is after men who are mature Christians!

1st Qualification: Above reproach

- Heads the list
- Overarching term
- All-embracing qualification
- Not faultless
- But of a blameless reputation
- Irreproachable observable conduct

Strauch: “To be above reproach means to be free from any offensive or disgraceful blight of character or conduct, particularly as described in verses 2-7. . . . When an elder is irreproachable, critics cannot discredit his Christian profession of faith or prove him unfit to lead others.”

(Question): What are some ways a pastoral search committee can make sure a pastoral candidate is above reproach?

Stott: “This provides biblical warrant for requiring references or testimonials so that a candidate’s public reputation may be ascertained.”

2nd Qualification: The Husband of One Wife

- Simple phrase (3 Greek words)
- “One-wife husband”
- “One-woman man”
- “Husband of one wife”
- Four possible meanings
- Elders must be married
- Elders must not be polygamists
- Elders may marry only once
- Elders must be maritally and sexually above reproach

Merkle: “The best interpretation of this difficult phrase is to understand it as referring to the faithfulness of a husband toward his wife. He must be a ‘one-woman man.’ That is, there must be no other woman in his life to whom he relates emotionally or physically.”

Stott: “He is making a general and positive stipulation that a candidate for the pastorate must be ‘faithful to his one wife’, ‘a man of unquestioned morality, one who is entirely true and faithful to his one and only wife,’ or ‘a man who, having contracted a monogamous marriage, is faithful to his marriage vows.’”

3rd Qualification: Sober-minded

- Not in reference to alcohol
- Verse 3: "Not a drunkard"
- But in reference to thinking
- Mental sobriety

1 Peter 1:13: "¹³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 4:7: "⁷ The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers."

1 Peter 5:8: "⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

4th Qualification: Self-Controlled

- NASB: Prudent
- RSV: Sensible
- Self-controlled
- Having discretion

Strauch: "To be prudent is to be sound-minded, discreet, and sensible, able to keep an objective perspective in the face of problems and disagreements."

(Question): Why might this be an important qualification for a pastor?

5th Qualification: Respectable

- KJV & NKJV: Of good behavior
- Other translations: Respectable
- Having a respectable character

1 Timothy 2:9: "⁹ likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control. . ."

Strauch: "Although the word is used to describe properness in outward demeanor and dress in 1 Timothy 2:9, its usage here conveys the more general meaning of 'orderly' . . . 'well behaved,' or 'virtuous' . . . that which causes a person to be regarded as 'respectable by others.'"

(Question): How come it's so important for a pastor, as a shepherd leader, to have a respectable character?

Merkle: "If others are to follow and emulate him, he must prove that his life is worth following. His character, therefore must be well balanced and virtuous if he is to be respected."

6th Qualification: Hospitable

- Not entertaining your immediate family
- Entertaining strangers
- Showing care toward strangers
- Duty of every Christian
- Especially pastors

1 Peter 4:9: "⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling."

Strauch: "In my work as a pastor and elder, I have found my home to be one of the most important tools I possess for reaching out to and caring for people."

Merkle: "If he is to effectively shepherd the flock of God, his home must be open so that he can minister to them more than just on Sunday mornings."

During my Interview at FBC Durham: How could I effectively use the spiritual gift of hospitality to reach college students?

7th Qualification: Able to Teach

- KJV: Apt to teach
- NRSV: An apt teacher
- Knowledge of Scripture
- Readiness to teach
- The ability to teach
- Titus adds the ministry of refutation

Strauch: "This doesn't mean that an elder must be an eloquent orator, a dynamic lecturer, or a highly gifted teacher (of which there are very few). But an elder must know the Bible and be able to instruct others from it."

Titus 1:9: "⁹He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it."

(Question): Why is this so incredibly important?

1 Timothy 3:14-15: "¹⁴I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth."

8th Qualification: Not a Drunkard

- KJV: Not given to wine
- NASB: Not addicted to wine
- CSB: Not an excessive drinker
- Not a prohibition against drinking
- A prohibition against drunkenness
- But it's a strong prohibition!

Romans 13:13-14: "¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires."

Ephesians 5:18: "¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,"

Strauch: "Drunkenness has ruined countless lives. It is reported that nearly half of the murders, suicides, and accidental deaths in America are related to alcohol. One in four families has some problem with alcohol, making alcohol one of the largest health problems in America. The misery and heartbreak that alcoholism has caused multitudes of families is beyond imagination. . . . Alcoholism reduces life expectancy, breaks up families, and destroys people financially. It's a moral and spiritual problem of the greatest magnitude."

9th Qualification: Not Violent but Gentle

- CSB: Not a bully
- NASB: Not pugnacious
- But gentle and patient
- But kind

Strauch: "A pugnacious man is a fighter, a bad-tempered, irritable, out-of-control individual. The Greek word is derived from the verb 'to strike' and suggests a violent person who is prone to physical assault on others."

(Question): How could a pugnacious pastor do some serious spiritual damage to his flock?

Strauch: "Elders must handle highly emotional interpersonal conflicts and deeply felt doctrinal disagreements between believers. Elders are often at the center of very tense situations, so a bad-tempered, pugnacious person is not going to solve issues and problems. He will, in fact, create worse explosions. Because a pugnacious man will treat the sheep roughly and even hurt them, he cannot be one of Christ's undershepherds."

10th Qualification: Not Quarrelsome

- Not contentious
- Not looking for a fight
- NASB: Peaceable

Strauch: “God hates division and fighting among His people: ‘There are six things which the Lord hates. . .A false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers’ (Proverbs 6:16-19). Yet fighting paralyzes and kills many local churches. It may be the single, most distressing problem Christian leaders face.”

(Question): What are some things people in the church quarrel over?

Merkle: “An elder, however, must be able to deal with these tension and not add to them. He must be a peacemaker and find a way to bring about reconciliation.”

2 Timothy 2:23-25: “²³Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. ²⁴And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵correcting his opponents with gentleness.”

11th Qualification: Not a Lover of Money

- KJV: Not covetous
- NASB: Free from the love of money
- CSB: Not greedy

1 Timothy 6:9-10: “⁹But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”

Titus 1:10-11: “¹⁰For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. ¹¹They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.”

2 Peter 2:3: “³And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.”

12th Qualification: He Must Manage His Household Well (Lots of space)

- Family: Small household
- Church: Big household
- Lead; rule over; manage
- His household
- Especially his children
- Father with dignity, keeping his children submissive
- FOR! BECAUSE!

1 Timothy 3:4-5: “⁴He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church?”

The man must father in such a way that leads his children to be respectful and obedient.

Donald Guthrie: “A most important principle, which has not always had the prominence it deserves. . . .Any man unable to govern his children graciously and gravely by maintaining good discipline, is no man for government in the Church.”

Family life must take precedence over ministry. For if it doesn’t, a man will quickly be disqualified from doing ministry!

(Question): How might a pastoral search committee seek to get a glimpse of a man’s relationship with his wife and children?

13th Qualification: He Must Not Be a Recent Convert

- Must not be a recent convert
- Must not be a baby Christian
- Because PRIDE and RUIN

1 Timothy 3:6: “*6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil.*”

(Questions): 1) How did Satan’s pride lead to his condemnation? 2) How might a spiritually immature pastor’s pride lead to his ruin?

Phil Newton: “Due to the attention that comes with leadership and teaching, an elder must guard his heart against the innate tendency toward pride and conceit. Sometimes new converts think more highly of themselves when given positions of leadership. Elders must hold their office with humility, realizing their own sinfulness and weakness and depending upon the redemptive and sustaining work of Christ.”

14th Qualification: He Must Be Well Thought of By Outsiders

- Well thought of by unbelievers
- By those outside the church
- True for every Christian
- Especially the pastor

1 Timothy 3:7: “*7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.*”

Merkle: “An elder must maintain a good reputation before a world of watching unbelievers. If the church allows a person who has a bad reputation with non-Christians to become an elder, the unbelievers will scoff and mock the church for being hypocrites.”

Conclusion

These are the type of men God has called to lead & teach as pastors in the local church!

Applications: For the Church

- Remember, these qualifications should characterize all Christians
- Desire for these qualifications to characterize you
- Don’t approve unqualified pastoral candidates
- Approve only qualified pastoral candidates

(Question) Can you think of any more applications for the church?

Applications: For Pastors

- Memorize these qualifications
- Pray for the Lord to allow these qualifications to increasingly characterize your life
- Guard and cultivate your small household (wife and children)
- Remember that godly character is more important than giftedness
- Seek to raise up godly men who can one day fulfill the office of overseer/elder/pastor

(Question) Can you think of any more applications for pastors?

FBC Jackson
Wednesday Night Teaching
1 Timothy 3:8-13: Qualifications for Deacons

Overview of 1 Timothy: Major Themes

Addressing False Teachers // 1 Timothy 1:3: *"³As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine..."*

Preparing the Church // 1 Timothy 3:14-15: *"¹⁴I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth."*

We'll seek to better understand sound doctrine and how a local church should function.

Review: 1 Timothy 3:1-7

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The church is God's household, & within God's household, women & men have distinct roles.

Qualifications of Overseers/Elders/Pastors

- Above reproach
- The husband of one wife
- Sober-minded
- Self-controlled
- Respectable
- Hospitable
- Able to teach
- Not a drunkard
- Not violent but gentle
- Not quarrelsome
- Not a lover of money
- Must manage his household well
- Must not be a recent convert
- Well thought of by unbelievers

These are the type of men God has called to oversee, lead, teach, & shepherd the local church!

Introduction: 1 Timothy 3:8-16

Remember: There are Two Offices in a Local Church

- The Office of Overseer/Elder/Pastor
- The Office of Deacon

BF&M 2000: "A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its two scriptural offices are that of pastor/elder/overseer and deacon."

Paul has already described the qualifications of an overseer/elder/pastor. Now, he will describe the qualifications of a deacon.

1st Point: The Office and Responsibilities of Deacons

1 Timothy 3:8a: "Deacons likewise. . ."

The Greek Term for Deacon διάκονος (diakonos)

- General Usage
- Servant, minister, table-waiter
- All Christians are called to this
- Official Office
- Philippians 1; 1 Timothy 3
- Qualified men are called to this

Mark 10:43-45: "⁴³But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served (not to be deaconed) but to serve (but to deacon), and to give his life as a ransom for many."

John 2:3-5: "³When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants (διάκονος), "Do whatever he tells you."

Philippians 1:1: "To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons. . ."

(Question): Why is it vital for deacons to understand their role as servants in the life of the church?

The Establishment of the Office

Acts 6:1-6: "Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve (deacon) tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit. . . . ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them."

Various Ways Deacons Serve

- Deacons serve the Church in various capacities (meeting tangible needs)
- Deacons promote unity
- Deacons assist the pastors

Alexander Strauch: "God's Word creates, edifies, protects, strengthens, encourages, and guides the church. The apostles' stated priorities of "prayer" and "the ministry of the word" should be the priorities of all biblical elders.⁴ Deacons best assist the elders by helping them to keep their focus on the supreme importance of feeding, guiding, and protecting God's flock by "the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation" (Eph. 1:13)."

Alexander Strauch: "It is especially important for deacons to guard against a critical spirit toward their leaders, and against assuming they have more authority than is theirs. The deacons are not an independent church board of directors, checking and balancing the eldership. Like everyone else in the church, the deacons must "obey" and "submit" to their leaders (Heb. 13:17); they must "esteem them very highly in love because of their work," and "be at peace" with the elders (1 Thess. 5:12-13)."

And since deacons assist the pastors in carrying out various aspects of church ministry, they need to meet certain qualifications.

2nd Point: The Qualifications For Deacons

1 Timothy 3:8-13: *“⁸Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. ¹¹Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹²Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ¹³For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.”*

The Focus of the Passage

- Not skill set
- Not what deacons do
- But character
- Who deacons must be

God cares more about character than about gifting.

Overarching Description: A Deacon Must be Dignified

- Dignified: Worthy of Respect
- Heads the List
- Overarching Term
- All-embracing qualification
- 3 Negatives: A dignified person isn't this way
- 3 Positives: A dignified person is this way

Acts 6:3: *“Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.”*

(Question): Why is it important for a deacon to be “worthy of respect?”

1st Qualification: A Deacon Must Not Be Double Tongued

- CSB: “Hypocritical”
- Other translations: “Insincere”
- Saying one thing and meaning another
- Must not be a flatterer, gossip, or slanderer

James 3:9-10: *“⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.”*

Matt Smethurst: “Being double-tongued is not a minor flaw or personality quirk; it is a symptom of hypocritical pride. It's consciously saying one thing to one group—and then saying or insinuating something else to a different group.”

(Question): How might a double-tongued deacon wreak havoc in the life of the church?

2nd Qualification: A Deacon Must Not Be Addicted to Much Wine

- CSB: “Not drinking much wine”
- NIV: “Not indulging in much wine”
- Not a prohibition against drinking
- A prohibition against drunkenness
- This is the case for church members
- Especially for men who serve as deacons

Titus 2:3: *“³Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine.”*

Robert Yarbough: “All members of the church should lay hold of the grace of the gospel so as to rise above substance abuse; this behavior is all the more imperative for church-sanctioned figures like deacons.”

3rd Qualification: A Deacon Must Not Be Greedy For Dishonest Gain

- Love of money = root of all kinds of evil
- A deacon who loves money will do evil things

Matt Smethurst: “While these virtues mark any mature believer, the specific nature of diaconal work will sometimes put deacons in contact with church money. So Paul warns against installing anyone known for being deceptive, cutting moral corners, or obsessing over money. A worldly, materialistic person will struggle with greed, which will in turn fuel temptation toward dishonest gain. This should be an area, then, where a deacon displays unimpeachable self-control.”

In other words, deacons must control their speech, appetites, and wallets!

4th Qualification: A Deacon Must Hold The Mystery of the Faith with A Clear Conscience

- They must know the faith (good, sound Christian doctrine)
- Second, they must hold the Faith
- They must live the faith (their life is consistent with their profession)

Robert Yarbough: “Paul’s counsel to Timothy assumes that deacons are not just busy activists but also capable and informed in matters pertaining to Christian teaching, experience, and to some extent the Scriptures (OT and any then-recognized NT) themselves.”

(Questions): 1) Why is this such an important qualification for a deacon? 2) How can a church ensure their potential deacons “hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience?”

Juan Sanchez: “That’s why deacons must not only be equipped to offer physical care, they also need to be able to minister the truth of God’s word. I don’t mean that they need to be able to preach a 30-minute sermon. But they need to be able to pray biblically informed prayers. They need to be able to make biblically informed decisions. To do that, they “must hold the mystery of the faith.””

5th Qualification: A Deacon Must Be Tested and Proven Blameless

- Tested; examined; tried out
- Will they prove to be blameless
- Speaks against the hasty installment of deacons

Alexander Strauch: “Being examined and shown to be “blameless” does not imply that the deacon is free of faults! All of us have character flaws, idiosyncrasies, and character traits that annoy others. Being proved “blameless” or “above reproach” relates specifically to the qualifications for office. A deacon who is found “blameless” in this regard is worthy of respect, truthful in speech, self-controlled in the use of wine, sound in doctrine and life, and a faithful husband, good father, and competent household manager.”

(Questions): 1) Why might it be unwise to hastily install deacons? 2) What could we do as a church to examine and test deacons?

6th Qualification: Part 1: The Deacon’s Wife

- The deacon’s wife
- Must be dignified
- Not a slanderer
- Sober-minded
- Faithful in all things

Alexander Strauch: “A godly wife will greatly enhance her husband’s reputation as a deacon. She will be one of the most important influences on his development of Christlike character and his work in the church.”

(Question) Why is it important for a deacon's wife not to be a slanderer?

6th Qualification: Part 2: The Deacon's Household

- Husband of one wife
- One woman man

- Managing children well
- Managing household well

The Promise (Verse 13)

- Good standing
- Church holds them in high regard

- Great confidence
- Deeper, personal faith in Christ

1 Timothy 3:13: *"¹³ For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."*

(Question): What does it look like for a deacon to serve well?

Only men who meet these qualifications qualify to be deacons in the local church.

3rd Point: The Nomination of Potential Deacons

The Church

- Does he love our church and the mission and vision of our church?
- Does he regularly attend corporate worship?
- Does he regularly attend the ministries of our church?
- Does he respect the pastors?

Service

- In what ways does he currently serve?
- Does he serve regularly?
- Does he take the initiative to serve?

Not Double Tongued

- Does he have a reputation for keeping his word?
- Does he speak consistently to different parties?
- Does he talk to people rather than about them?
- Is he a people-pleaser?
- Is he a flatterer, gossip, or slanderer?
- Does he speak in love? Or is he harsh?

Not Addicted to Much Wine

- Does he drink alcohol?
- Does he exercise self-control in his consumption of alcohol?
- Do those close to him believe he exercises self-control in his consumption of alcohol?

Not Greedy for Dishonest Gain

- What is his attitude toward wealth and material possessions?
- Does he give generously toward the ministries of the church, the needs of fellow Christians, and the needs of the poor?
- Does he prioritize kingdom giving?
- Is he honest in his financial dealings?

Knowing and Holding to the Faith

- Does he give a credible profession of saving faith?
- Is he able to articulate the gospel of Jesus Christ?
- Have you seen them grow in knowledge and godliness in the past year?

The Household

- If married, does he have a godly wife?
- Is she a woman worthy of respect?
- Is she prone to slander or gossip?
- Is she a faithful wife and mother?
- Is she a faithful church member?
- Does she regularly attend church with him?
- Does he manage his household well?
- Does he love his wife and serve her as Christ served the church
- Does he love his children and raise them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord?
- Does the home he cultivates look quite different than the home the world cultivates?

Tried and True

- Is he blameless before man?
- Is there anything that disqualifies him from serving?

(Question): Can you think of any other questions it'd be helpful for the congregation to consider as they prepare to nominate deacons?

4th Point: An Example Questionnaire for a Nominated Deacon

1. How long have you been a Christian? Give a brief account of your conversion.
2. What is your understanding of the role of a deacon? Do you desire to be a deacon?
3. In what ways have you led and served in our church or in previous church families?
4. In what ways are you currently serving our church family?
5. Do you think you have the availability to be deacon?
6. Do you think you have the experience and skills necessary to do the work of a deacon?
7. If you are married, what does your spouse think about you serving as a deacon?
8. Looking at 1 Timothy 3:8–13, do you think you meet the qualifications Paul lays out there for deacons?
9. Are you dignified? What do you think that means?
10. Are you double-tongued? What do you think that means?
11. Do you think you're marked by greed?
12. Are you financially committed to FBC Jackson by regularly giving to our church family?
13. Do you "hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience"? In other words, do you sincerely and solidly believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
14. Do you think you've been tested in the life of the church? How? How do you think the "test" has gone?
15. Do you have a tendency to slander others, to speak ill of them in private, to gossip?
16. Are you sober-minded, able to "keep your head" in difficult situations? One of the most important roles of deacons is to be "shock absorbers" in the life of the church. Can you do that well?
17. Are you faithful? Are you able to take responsibility for things and get them done in a timely fashion? How much of a procrastinator are you?
18. If you're married, how do you think you're doing in your role as husband? As father?

(Question): Can you think of any other questions that a potential deacon should have to think through as they weigh the possibility of becoming a deacon?

Conclusion

A qualified deacon who joyfully gives himself to the ministries of the church and the members of the church is a blessing to the church! May God raise up more of them!

Applications

- Don't passively nominate men to be deacons
- Actively nominate men to be deacons
- Don't nominate men to be deacons because you know them or like them
- Nominate men to be deacons because you think they'd bless the church
- Don't nominate men to be deacons merely because of their skills
- Nominate men to be deacons because of their dignified character

FBC Jackson
Wednesday Night Teaching
1 Timothy 3:14-16: The Nature of the Church

Overview of 1 Timothy

Major Themes

- Addressing false teachers
- Preparing the church

We'll seek to better understand sound doctrine and how a local church should function.

Review: 1 Timothy 3:1-13

The Two Offices of the Church

- Overseer/Elder/Pastor
- Overseeing, Leading, Teaching,
- Deacon
- Serving, ministering, assisting

BF&M 2000: “A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel. . . In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its two scriptural offices are that of pastor/elder/overseer and deacon.”

Qualifications for Pastors and Deacons

- Pastors ought to be mature, Christian men who are able to teach the truth of God’s word
- Deacons ought to be mature, Christian men who believe the truth of God’s Word

Paul will conclude this section (2:1-3:13) by talking about the nature of the church.

Introduction: 1 Timothy 3:14-16

Contemporary Culture’s View of the Church

- It’s a lifeless institution
- It’s unimportant
- It’s unnecessary
- It’s non-essential

(Question): Why do you think the contemporary evangelical culture minimizes the importance of the local church?

The result: The church can function however it wants to function. The leadership & members of the church can conduct themselves according to their own wisdom.

God’s Incredibly High View of the Church

- It’s the household of God
- It’s the church of the living God
- It’s a pillar and buttress of the truth
- Christ founded the church
- Christ died for the church
- Christ identifies with the church
- Christ calls the church his bride
- Christ calls the church his body

The result: The church ought to function the way God designed it to function. The leadership & members of the church ought to conduct themselves in accordance with the wisdom of God.

Kostenberger: The unit provides eloquent expression of the high importance of the church in God’s program. It is God’s household, the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth, brought into being through the incarnate, resurrected, & exalted Christ.

Mounce: “The instructions in the preceding chapters must be followed because the church is the house of God, the church of the living God, a pillar and protector of the truth, which is the gospel. Ultimately, it is the gospel that is at stake.”

1st Point: God's Household (Verse 14-15)

1 Timothy 3:14-15: "I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God. . ."

We should take Paul's instructions and commands seriously because. . . .

The Church Is the Household of God

- In regard to pastors
- In regard to deacons
- Not a reference to a building
- But a reference to a family unit

1 Timothy 3:4-5: "⁴He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?"

1 Timothy 3:12: "¹²Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well."

(Question): What do you think the qualification, "he must manage his household well," means?

Griffin: "Paul's directive 'includes the conduct of individual Christians, the qualifications required in ministers, and sound doctrine in contrast to the doctrine of false teachers' . . . Paul viewed the church as God's family, not merely as a building in which people meet. He was not describing behavior suitable for the church building but the type of conduct fitting for one who is a member of God's family."

Let's Ponder God's Family

- Through faith, we've been adopted
- God is our Father
- Christ is our Older Brother
- We're brothers and sisters of one another

John 1:12: "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

Romans 8:29: "²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."

Stott: "By new birth of the Spirit we become members of the family of God, related to him as our Father and to all fellow believers as our sisters and brothers."

Just like a father wants his family to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of their last's name, so God wants his family to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of their status as members of God's family.

(Question): What's the danger of a local church conducting themselves in an unbiblical manner?

2nd Point: The Church of the Living God

1 Timothy 3:14-15: “¹⁴ I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵ if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God. . . .”

We should take Paul’s instructions and commands seriously because. . . .

The Term Church

- Church: ἐκκλησία (ekklēsia)
- OT: The assembly of the OT people of God
- NT: The assembly of the NT people of God

Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible: “A group or assembly of persons called together for a particular purpose.”

Joshua 8:35: “³⁵ There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the sojourners who lived among them.”

The term church refers to a corporate group. It refers to the saints who assemble together, who gather together, for the express purpose of worshipping the Triune God!

The Phrase, “The Living God”

- Used throughout the OT
- Not some dead, tribal deity
- The one true, living God
- The one, true, living God dwells in the local church

Deuteronomy 5:26: “²⁶ For who is there of all flesh, that has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of fire as we have, and has still lived?”

Joshua 3:10: “¹⁰ And Joshua said, “Here is how you shall know that the living God is among you and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites. . . .”

Daniel 6:26-27: “²⁶ I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, / for he is the living God, / enduring forever; / his kingdom shall never be destroyed, / and his dominion shall be to the end. / ²⁷ He delivers and rescues; / he works signs and wonders / in heaven and on earth, / he who has saved Daniel / from the power of the lions.”

1 Corinthians 3:16-17: “¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.”

Ephesians 2:19-22: “¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

When the local church assembles, when the local church congregates, it is the dwelling place of the Living God!

(Question): How should this truth, that we’re the church of the living God, affect how we function as a local church?

3rd Point: The Pillar and Buttress of the Truth

1 Timothy 3:14-15: “¹⁴ I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵ if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.”

We should take Paul’s instructions and commands seriously because.

The Church is the Pillar of the Truth

- The work of a pillar
- To hold something up
- The church holds up the truth of the gospel

(Question): How is the local church supposed to hold up the truth?

Stott: “Just so, the church holds the truth aloft, so that it is seen and admired by the world. Indeed, as pillars lift a building high while remaining themselves unseen, so the church’s function is not to advertise itself but to advertise and display the truth.”

The Church is the Buttress of the Truth

- The work of a buttress
- To support, strengthen, hold steady
- The church supports and strengthens the Truth

(Question): How is the local church supposed to support and strengthen the truth?

Stott: “Just so, the church is responsible to hold the truth steady against the storms of heresy and unbelief.”

Lock: “Each local Church has it in its power to support and strengthen the truth by its witness to the faith and by the lives of its members.”

Stott: “Here then is the double responsibility of the church when it comes to truth. First, as its foundation it is to hold it firm, so that it does not collapse under the weight of false teaching. Secondly, as its pillars, it is to hold it high so that it is not hidden from the world. To hold the truth is the defense and confirmation of the gospel; to hold it high is the proclamation of the gospel. The church is called to both these ministries.”

(Question): How should this truth, that the church is the pillar and buttress of the truth, affect how we function as a local church?

Mounce: “The church ceases to perform its function when its pillars crumble and can no longer be part of and aid in the proclamation of the truth.”

4th Point: The Christological Hymn

1 Timothy 3:16: “¹⁶ Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: / He was manifested in the flesh, / vindicated by the Spirit, / seen by angels, / proclaimed among the nations, / believed on in the world, / taken up in glory.”

After talking about the Church being a pillar and buttress of the truth, Paul gives us a Christological hymn that magnifies the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ!

The Lord Jesus was Manifested in the Flesh

- Eternal Son of God
- Became Flesh

John 1:1-2, 14: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

The Lord Jesus was Vindicated by the Spirit

- Either by His Baptism
- Or by His resurrection

Matthew 4:17: “. . . ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Romans 1:1-4: “Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, . . .”

(Question): How did the resurrection of Jesus Christ vindicate the Lord Jesus Christ?

Griffin: “The resurrection becomes the means of publicly declaring this vindication. What Paul was saying is that just as Christ was manifested in human flesh, so he was proved to be what he claimed to be in the spiritual realm. The resurrection of Christ declared that he was God’s Son.”

The Lord Jesus was Seen By Angels

- Either during his earthly ministry
- Or at his resurrection

Matthew 28:1-3: “Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.”

The Lord Jesus was Proclaimed Among the Nations

- The Church proclaimed Christ to Jews
- The Church proclaimed Christ to Gentiles

Matthew 28:19-20: “¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The Lord Jesus was Believed on in the World

- Jews believed in Christ
- Samaritans believed in Christ
- Gentiles believed in Christ

The Lord Jesus was Taken Up in Glory

- After He resurrected
- He ascended into heaven
- Seated at the right hand of the Father

Guthrie: “The hymn could not close more suitably than with the humiliated Messiah’s exalted entry into the heavenly sphere.”

When the church doesn’t function in accordance with God’s Word, it compromises the truth, the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ! In our ecclesiology, the gospel of Jesus Christ is at stake!

Conclusion

B.B. Warfield: “There is a right way to order God’s house; nay, there is a way in which it must be ordered. . . Is there or is there not a duty laid upon us of to-day to govern our Church services and conform our Church organization according to the pattern deductible from the two sections (2:1-15, 3:1-13), to which these solemn words refer? Is the Church still God’s house,

the Church of the living God? And is His or our way of ordering it best fitted to make it the pillar and ground of his great and inestimable truth?"

Applications

The Truth of the Gospel is at Stake

1. In matters of church membership, remain faithful to God's Word
2. In matters of pastors, remain faithful to God's Word
3. In matters of deacons, remain faithful to God's Word
4. In matters of church government, remain faithful to God's Word
5. In matters of missions and evangelism, remain faithful to God's Word

And as we do so, we'll not only profess to be God's household, the assembly of the living God, and the pillar and buttress of the truth, we'll actually look like God's household, the dwelling place of Almighty God, and the pillar and buttress of the truth!

FBC Jackson
Wednesday Night Teaching
1 Timothy 4:1-5: The Rise of False Teachers

Overview of 1 Timothy

Question: What are the two main themes of 1 Timothy?

Review: 1 Timothy 3:14-16

The Church, The Most Beautiful Place On Earth

- The Household of God
- The Church of the Living God
- The Pillar and Buttress of the truth
- The Truth of the Gospel

Because of these significant truths about the church, we shouldn't conduct ourselves according to our own wisdom; we should conduct ourselves as Paul tells us to!

Mounce: “The instructions in the preceding chapters must be followed because the church is the house of God, the church of the living God, a pillar and protector of the truth, which is the gospel. Ultimately, it is the gospel that is at stake.”

Introduction: 1 Timothy 4:1-5

Introduction to False Teaching

- One Christ
- One gospel
- One way of salvation
- False Christ's
- False gospels
- False ways of salvation

2 Corinthians 11:4: “⁴For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.”

Galatians 1:6-9: “⁶I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.”

There are people who profess to be Christians who preach a different Christ, a different gospel, and a different way of salvation than the one laid out in Sacred Scripture!

(Question): How does this truth affect how we live?

1 Timothy 4:1-5

- 1 Timothy 3:14-15: Church is the pillar and buttress of the truth
- 1 Timothy 4:1-5: False teachers will teach contrary to the truth

Stott: “Chapter 3 ended with a reference to the church as ‘pillar and foundation of the truth’ and with a summary of that truth in relation to Christ. Chapter 4 opens with a reference to the false teachers and their lies. Thus, Paul warns Timothy that the false teachers are denying what the church confesses.”

The local church is the main arena where the constant struggle between truth and error is fought out!

1st Point: The Inevitable Rise of False Teachers (Verses 1-2)

1 Timothy 4:1-2: “Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,² through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared. . .”

The Spirit Told Us That False Teachers Would Arise

- The Holy Spirit authored Scripture
- Scripture, thus the Spirit, tells us about false teachers
- Jesus in Matthew 24
- Paul in Acts 20
- Peter in 2 Peter 2

Acts 1:16: ¹⁶ “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas,”

2 Peter 1:21: ²¹ “For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 24:11: ¹¹ “And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.”

Acts 20:29-30: ²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.”

2 Peter 2:1-3: “But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies. . .”

(Question): How should the church respond to the Spirit’s warning that false teachers would arise between Christ’s first and second coming?

The External Cause of False Teaching

- Satan and his demons
- In the OT and the NT
- Satan and his minions
- Remarkably deceptive

Deuteronomy 32:17: “They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, / to gods they had never known. . .”

1 Corinthians 10: 20: “²⁰ No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.”

2 Corinthians 11:13-15: ¹³ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.”

(Question): What does this teach us about Satan and his dark kingdom?

Stott: “Scripture portrays the devil not only as the tempter, enticing people into sin, but also as the deceiver, seducing people into error.”

(Question): Why do you think we focus more on Satan as a tempter, enticing people into sin, than we do on Satan as a deceiver, seducing people into error?

Internal Cause of False Teachers

- Insincerity and deception
- Seared consciences

Stott: “When skin, a nerve or a superficial tumor is cauterized, it is destroyed by burning and so rendered insensitive. Just so, a cauterized conscience has been ‘anesthetized,’ even deadened.”

‘By constantly arguing with conscience, stifling its warnings and muffling its bell’, its voice is smothered and eventually silenced.”

Acts 24:16: “¹⁶ So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.”

2nd Point: The False Teaching (Verse 3)

1 Timothy 4:3: “³ who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.”

Our Initial Thoughts

- Denying the Trinity, deity of Christ, or deity of the Spirit
- Denying monotheism
- Propagating polytheism

(Question) But according to verse 3, what did this false teaching consist of?

MacArthur: “Anything contrary to Scripture can be the entry point of demonic teaching. We might have expected the apostle to follow his severe comments about demon doctrine with examples like denying the Trinity or the deity of the Savior. . . . But Satan is so subtle and seeks to gain a foothold on territory more easily yielded. Paul gives a sample of what was being taught at Ephesus. The deceivers there were focusing on two seemingly minor teachings: that spirituality demanded avoiding marriage and abstaining from foods.”

First, Singleness and Abstaining from Food Are Not Wrong

- Jesus emphasized the advantages of singleness
- Paul emphasized the advantages of singleness
- Jesus assumed we’d fast
- The early church fasted

Matthew 19:10-12: “¹⁰ The disciples said to him, “If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.” ¹¹ But he said to them, “Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. ¹² For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.”

1 Corinthians 7:8: “⁸ To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am.”

Matthew 6:16: “¹⁶ And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others.”

Forbidding Marriage and Certain Foods to Attain Salvation, or Greater Spirituality, Is Wrong

- Jesus never forbade marriage or sexual relations within marriage
- Paul never forbade marriage or sexual relations within marriage
- Jesus didn’t require abstinence from certain foods
- Paul didn’t require abstinence from certain foods

Colossians 2:20-23: “²⁰ If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— ²¹ “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” ²² (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? ²³ These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.”

1 Corinthians 7:1-5: “Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.”² But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.³ The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband.⁴ For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.⁵ Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.”

Mark 7:18-19: “Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.)”

Essentially, these teachers were trying to be stricter than God in matters of marriage, sexual relations within marriage, and food. They were promoting a false and erroneous view of godliness, one that was merely external.

3rd Point: Paul’s Biblical Rebuttal (Verses 3-5)

1 Timothy 4:3-5: “³who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,⁵ for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.”

(Question): In Paul’s rebuttal, he will be in Genesis 1-2. Why are these chapters so instrumental in understanding the rest of the Bible, especially false teachings?

Biblical Understanding of Marriage

- Genesis 1 & 2
- Just think about it

(Question): What do we learn about marriage from Genesis 2?

Marriage should be honored and appreciated, not despised or forbidden.

Biblical Understanding of Creation

- Genesis 1 & 2
- Just think about it

(Question): Upon the completion of creation, what did God declare about the entirety of creation?

Genesis 1:31: “³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.”

Stott: “How can anybody despise marriage, let alone forbid it, when God instituted it? How can anybody command abstention from certain foods, when God created them to be received with thanksgiving?”

Final Words

- Made holy (set apart) by God’s word
- Reference to Genesis
- Mad holy (set apart) by prayer
- Prayers of thanksgiving

1 Timothy 4:5: “⁵for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.”

G.K. Chesterton: “You say grace before meals. / All Right. / But I say grace before the play and the opera, / And grace before the concert and pantomime, / And grace before I open a book, / And grace before sketching, painting, / swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing; / And grace before I dip the pen in the ink.”

Conclusion

MacArthur: “Mandatory celibacy and abstinence from foods in general or particular is the teaching of demons. It denies the goodness of God’s creation, and robs Him of the glory and praise He is due for that goodness. It also is a denial of God’s truth, as revealed in His Word. Mere externalism neither pleases God nor promotes genuine spirituality.”

Applications

Be Aware

- Scripture warns us about false teachers
- They were in the local churches in Paul’s day
- They are in local churches in our day
- They will be in local churches until the Lord returns

Don’t Be Deceived

- At one time, false teachers seemed like Christians
- They departed from the faith
- They still profess to be Christians

1 Timothy 4:1: “Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons

Know God’s Word

- Paul said these false teachers misuse God’s law (OT)
- Paul talked about the role of men and women in the church (Genesis 2-3)
- Paul corrected these false teachings (Genesis 1-2)

A firm knowledge and adherence to the truth of God’s Word, both the OT and NT, will keep us from being misled by false teachers, and the demons influencing them!

FBC Jackson
Wednesday Night Teaching
1 Timothy 4:6-16: How to Deal with False Teachers

Overview of 1 Timothy

Question: What are the two main themes of 1 Timothy?

Review: 1 Timothy 3:14-4:5

1 Timothy 3:14-16: The Church, The Most Beautiful Place on Earth

- The household of God
- The Church of the living God
- The pillar and buttress of the truth
- The truth of the gospel

Because of these significant truths about the church, we shouldn't conduct ourselves according to our own wisdom; we should conduct ourselves as Paul tells us to!

1 Timothy 4:1-5: False Teachers

- False teachers will depart
- They'll teach contrary to the truth
- This is the teaching of demons
- Forbid marriage
- Abstain from food

Stott: "Thus, Paul warns Timothy that the false teachers are denying what the church confesses."

The local church is the main arena where the constant struggle between truth and error is fought out!

Introduction: 1 Timothy 4:6-16

Dealing with False Teachers

- 6 ways
- Not what you'd expect!
- Be godly
- Unceasingly teach the Word

1 Timothy 4:16: "¹⁶Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers."

The best way to confront false teachers is through personal godliness and actively fulfilling the ministry of the Word.

1st Point: Be a Good Servant of Christ (Verse 6)

1 Timothy 4:6: "If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed."

There is no higher honor given among pastors than to be a good servant of Christ Jesus! But, in order to be a good servant of Christ Jesus you must...

Instruct the Church: "Put these things before the brothers"

- "In the words of the faith"
- The totality of Christian teaching
- "In the good doctrine"
- Healthy Christian teaching

Guthrie: "The minister of the gospel has a responsibility to lay before his people the positive answers to negative doctrines, and anyone who fails in this respect forfeits the right to be accounted worthy of the ministry."

(Question): Some people argue that a Church shouldn't preach and teach about doctrine because it could lead to church division & schism. How does this verse counter that argument?

A good servant of Christ knows that the BEST refutation of error is the presentation of truth.

2nd Point: Pursue Godliness (Verses 7-8)

1 Timothy 4:7-8: *"⁷Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; ⁸for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come."*

A minister of the Gospel must keep the main thing the main thing!

He Must Avoid This. . . .

- “Irreverent, silly myths”
- KJV: “Profane wives fables”
- NIV: “Godless myths”
- CSB: “Pointless and silly myths”
- The big idea: they’re ungodly and unprofitable!

1 Timothy 1:3-4: *"³ . . . so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, ⁴nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith."*

2 Timothy 2:23: *"²³Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels."*

A good servant of Christ will not get bogged down in unprofitable teachings that lead to ungodly and unholy lifestyles!

He Must Pursue This. . . .

- “Train yourself for godliness”
- NASB: “Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness”

(Question) When you hear the term “train” or “discipline,” what do you think about?

Hebrews 5:14: *"¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil."*

1 Timothy 4:8: *"⁸for while bodily training is of some value,"*

(Question): How would you define the terms "godliness" or "piety"?

Protestant Reformer: “As if he had said, ‘There is no reason why you should weary yourself to no purpose about other matters; you will do that which is of the highest importance, if you devote yourself, with all your zeal, and with all your ability, to godliness alone.’”

John Owen: “A minister may fill his pews, his communion roll, the mouths of the public, but what that minister is on his knees in secret before God Almighty, that he is and no more.”

Spurgeon: “A graceless pastor is a blind man elected to a professorship of optics, philosophizing upon light and vision. . . .while he himself is absolutely in the dark! He is a dumb man elevated to the chair of music; a deaf man fluent upon symphonies and harmonies! He is a mole professing to educate eagles; a limpet elected to preside over angels.”

But Why? Because Godliness Has Great Value

- Bodily training has some value
- Training yourself for godliness has more value
- Value in this life
- Value in the life to come

Godliness leads to blessedness in this life and the life to come. Thus, a minister of the gospel ought to prioritize personal godliness and holiness!

3rd Point: Set Your Hope On God (Verses 9-10)

1 Timothy 4:9-10: [“]*9 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. 10 For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.”*

Training for godliness, toiling and striving for godliness, is best accomplished when we have our hope set on God!

Excursus on this phrase: “Savior of all people, especially of those who believe”

- Different interpretations
- Universalism
- Providential preserver of all men, especially the providential preserver of those who believe
- Providential preserver of all men, the Savior of those who believe
- God is the savior of all men. . . more specifically, of all men who believe

(Question): How do we know that universalism is an erroneous way to interpret this text?

MacArthur: “It seems best to understand this verse to be teaching that God is really the Savior of all men, who actually does save them—but only in the temporal sense, while believers He saves in the eternal sense.”

Stott: “Paul is not saying that God saves believers more than he saves others; he is simply modifying his general statement that God is the Savior of all men by adding the limitation that you cannot be saved unless you believe.”

Hope— our confident expectation in our glorious God—compels us to labor and toil for greater godliness!

4th Point: Set An Example (Verses 11-12)

1 Timothy 4:11-12: [“]*11 Command and teach these things. 12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”*

A Disdain for Youth

- Timothy is a young man (30-40 y/o)
- Older folks often have a disdain for youth
- This is especially true with young leaders
- What should a young pastor do?!

Stott: “It is a perennial problem. Older people have always found it difficult to accept young people as responsible adults in their own right, let alone as leaders. And young people are understandably irritated when their elders keep reminding them of their immaturity and inexperience and treat them with contempt.”

(Question): Why is this the case? Why might older folks in a congregation have a hard time accepting the leadership of a young pastor?

A Young Pastor’s Proper Response

- Don’t fight with older folks!
- Don’t argue with older folks
- Don’t plead your case with older folks!
- No! Set an example!
- Set an example in speech (how you talk)
- Set an example in conduct (how you live)
- Set an example in love (sacrificially laying down your life)
- Set an example in faith (probably faithfulness)
- In purity (in holiness of life)

T. Brooks: “Example is the most powerful rhetoric.”

D. Guthrie: “The qualities in which Timothy is to excel are those in which youth is so often deficient. Yet for that reason they would stand out the more strikingly. It would become evident to the Christian believers that authority in the community is contingent on character, not on age. Every young man called to the ministry or to any position of authority in the church would do well to heed Paul’s five-fold enumeration here. The first two, *speech* and *life* (i.e., manner of life, or behavior), apply to Timothy’s public life, while the other three are concerned with inner qualities (*love*, *faith*, and *purity*) which nevertheless have a public manifestation.”

A good servant of Christ sets an example in speech and conduct. He gives His people speech and conduct that is worthy of imitation!

5th Point: Devote Yourself to the Ministry of God’s Word (Verses 13-15)

1 Timothy 4:13-15: “¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵ Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.”

Devote Yourself to the Ministry of God’s Word

- To reading Scripture
- To exhorting the church
- To teaching the church
- Word-Centered!!!!!!

J. Martyr: “On the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles and the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has finished, the president speaks, instructing and exhorting the people to imitate these good things.”

(Question): A 1,000,000 things seek to divert the pastor’s attention from the ministry of the word. How can a pastor prioritize it?

J. MacArthur: “Preaching and teaching is the highest calling of a minister. It is tragic that so many in our day have been diverted from that. They spend their time on nonessentials, and their people end up spiritually impoverished.”

Don’t Neglect the Preaching or Teaching Gift You Have

- The gift (the ministry of the word)
- God gifted Timothy to minister the Word
- Don’t neglect it
- Don’t be inattentive to it
- Don’t be unconcerned about

(Question): What might it look like for a pastor to neglect the ministry of the word?

Protestant Reformer: “To neglect a gift is carelessly to keep it unemployed through slothfulness, so that, having contracted rust, it is worn away without yielding any profit. Let each of us, therefore, consider what gift he possesses, that he may diligently apply it to use.”

Practice the Ministry of the Word

- Practice these things
- “Be diligent in these matters”
- “Take pains with these things”
- Immerse yourself in them
- “Give yourself entirely to them”
- “Be absorbed in them”

(Question): What might it look like for a pastor to be diligent in the ministry of the word, to be absorbed in the ministry of the Word?

MacArthur: “It encompasses not just the act of teaching, but all the commitment, study, and preparation associated with it.”

Why: “So that all may see your progress”

Other people should be able to see the pastor/teacher’s growth in wielding the Sword of the Spirit over a period of time.

Just think about this: If Timothy, the protégé of the Apostle Paul, was advised to study and make progress in the ministry of the word, how much more should young pastors today?

6th Point: Watch Your Life and Your Teaching Persistently (Verse 16)

1 Timothy 4:16: “¹⁶Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

Keep Close Watch in These Two Areas. . . . Be Careful in These Two Areas!

- Your personal life
- In matters of godliness, holiness, and purity
- Your teaching
- In matters of doctrine, teaching, and preaching

Protestant Reformer: “It is not enough if he frames his life to all that is good and commendable, and guard against giving a bad example, if he does not likewise add to a holy life continual diligence in teaching; and, on the other hand, doctrine will be of little avail, if there be not a corresponding goodness and holiness of life. With good reason, therefore, does Paul urge Timothy to “give heed,” both to himself personally, and to doctrine, for the general advantage of the Church.”

Persist in this! Persevere in This!

Why? Well. . . .

- You will save yourself
- As you pursue godliness
- As you watch your teaching
- As you make progress in sanctification
- You will work out your own salvation
- You will save your hearers
- As you pursue godliness
- As you watch your teaching
- As your congregation makes progress in sanctification
- They will work out their own salvation

(Question): What do you think Paul means when he says, “you will save yourself and your hearers?”

Extremely Weighty: One of the means God uses to bring His church to final salvation is the godliness and faithful teaching ministry of pastors!

Extremely Weighty: On the other hand, one of the means to a church’s spiritual downfall and ruin are godless and doctrinally erroneous or anemic pastors!

Conclusion

A good minister of the gospel combats false teachers and fosters the church’s spiritual health by focusing entirely on personal godliness and the public ministry of the Word!

Applications

(Question): How does this passage apply to the church?

(Question): How does this passage apply to the pastors of this church, especially the primary teaching and preaching pastor?

FBC Jackson
Wednesday Night Teaching
1 Timothy 4:11-16: The Role of the Pastor

Overview of 1 Timothy

Question: What are the two main themes of 1 Timothy?

Review: 1 Timothy 4:6-10

1 Timothy 3:14-16: The Church, The Most Beautiful Place on Earth

- The Household of God
- The Church of the Living God
- The pillar and buttress of the truth
- The truth of the gospel

1 Timothy 3:16: “¹⁶ Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: / He was manifested in the flesh, / vindicated by the Spirit, / seen by angels, / proclaimed among the nations, / believed on in the world, / taken up in glory.”

Because of these significant truths about the church, we shouldn't conduct ourselves according to our own wisdom; we should conduct ourselves as Paul tells us to!

1 Timothy 4:1-5: False Teachers

- False teachers will depart
- Will deny the gospel the church confesses
- Twisted Things
- Forbid marriage
- Abstain from food

Acts 20:28-31: “²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be alert...”

The false teachers claim that outward asceticism makes individuals holier and more acceptable to God. The local church serves as the primary battleground for truth and error.

1 Timothy 4:6-16: Protecting the Congregation

- Against this persistent threat...
- Be a good servant
- Don't entertain pointless teachings
- Train for godliness
- Set your hope on God

Introduction: The Role of the Pastor

1 Timothy 4:11-16

- Watch your life
- Watch your teaching

1 Timothy 4:16: “¹⁶ Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

For the sake of his own soul and the souls of his hearers, Timothy must keep a close watch on his life and his teaching!

1st Point: Set An Example (Verses 11-12)

1 Timothy 4:11-12: *¹¹Command and teach these things (probably referring to what he has previously said). ¹²Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”*

The Command: “Let No One Despise You!”

- Disdain for youth
- Timothy is a young man (30-40 y/o)
- Older folks often have a disdain for youth
- This is especially true with young leaders
- The command: “Let no one despise you for your youth”

Stott: “It is a perennial problem. Older people have always found it difficult to accept young people as responsible adults in their own right, let alone as leaders. And young people are understandably irritated when their elders keep reminding them of their immaturity and inexperience and treat them with contempt.”

(Questions): Why is that a weird command? How is Timothy supposed to obey it?

The Command: “Set the Believers an Example!”

- In speech (how you talk)
- In conduct (how you live)
- In love (sacrificially laying down your life)
- In faith (probably faithfulness)
- In purity (in holiness of life)

T. Brooks: “Example is the most powerful rhetoric.”

(Question) How might this type of example lead the congregation to respect rather than despise Timothy?

D. Guthrie: “The qualities in which Timothy is to excel are those in which youth is so often deficient. . . . It would become evident to the Christian believers that authority in the community is contingent on character, not on age. Every young man called to the ministry or to any position of authority in the church would do well to heed Paul’s five-fold enumeration here. The first two, *speech* and *life* (i.e., manner of life, or behavior), apply to Timothy’s public life, while the other three are concerned with inner qualities (*love, faith, and purity*) which nevertheless have a public manifestation.”

Contrary to the false teacher’s speech & conduct, Timothy’s speech & conduct were to be exemplary & worthy of imitation.

2nd Point: Devote Yourself to the Ministry of God’s Word (Verses 13-15)

1 Timothy 4:13-15: *¹³Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. ¹⁴Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.”*

The Command: “Devote Yourself” to the Ministry of God’s Word

- To the public reading of Scripture
- To exhortation
- To teaching
- Word-Centered!!!!!!

1 Timothy 1:3-4: *³As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, ⁴nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies...”*

1 Timothy 4:1: “Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,”

J. Martyr: “On the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles and the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has finished, the president speaks, instructing and exhorting the people to imitate these good things.”

Unlike the false teachers, Timothy is to devote himself to the ministry of the word in its various forms!

(Question): A million things seek to divert the pastor’s attention from the ministry of the word. How can a pastor prioritize it?

J. MacArthur: “Preaching and teaching is the highest calling of a minister. It is tragic that so many in our day have been diverted from that. They spend their time on nonessentials, and their people end up spiritually impoverished.”

The Command: “Don’t Neglect the Gift you Have!”

- The gift (the ministry of the word)
- God gifted Timothy to minister the Word
- Don’t neglect it
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- Don’t be unconcerned about

Protestant Reformer: “To neglect a gift is carelessly to keep it unemployed through slothfulness, so that, having contracted rust, it is worn away without yielding any profit. Let each of us, therefore, consider what gift he possesses, that he may diligently apply it to use.”

The Command: “Practice These Things!”

- These things (the ministry of the word)
- “Be diligent in these matters”
- “Take pains with these things”
- Immerse yourself in them
- “Give yourself entirely to them”
- “Be absorbed in them”

(Question): What might it look like for a pastor to be diligent in the ministry of the Word, to be absorbed in the ministry of the Word?

MacArthur: “It encompasses not just the act of teaching, but all the commitment, study, and preparation associated with it.”

One Reason: “So that all may see your progress”

- Not for the approval of man
- But for the benefit of the church

Matthew 6:1: “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.”

Other people should be able to see the pastor/teacher’s growth in wielding the Sword of the Spirit over a period of time.

Just think about this: If Timothy, the protégé of the Apostle Paul, was advised to study and make progress in the ministry of the word, how much more should young pastors today?

3rd Point: Watch Your Life and Your Teaching Persistently (Verse 16)

1 Timothy 4:16: “¹⁶Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

The Command: “Keep Close Watch!”

- Your personal life
- In matters of godliness, holiness, and purity
- Your teaching
- In matters of doctrine, teaching, and preaching

Protestant Reformer: “It is not enough if he frames his life to all that is good and commendable, and guard against giving a bad example, if he does not likewise add to a holy life continual diligence in teaching; and, on the other hand, doctrine will be of little avail, if there be not a corresponding goodness and holiness of life. With good reason, therefore, does Paul urge Timothy to “give heed,” both to himself personally, and to doctrine, for the general advantage of the Church.”

Persist in this! Persevere in This!

The Reason: “For by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers!”

- Timothy has been saved!
- The members of the church have been saved
- “You will save”
- Timothy will be saved
- The church will be saved

2 Timothy 1:8-9: “⁸Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began. . .”

Titus 3:4-7: “⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

(Question): So, what do you think Paul means when he says, “you will save yourself and your hearers”?

1 Corinthians 15:1-2: “Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.”

Philippians 2:12-13: “¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

1 Peter 1:5: “⁵who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Extremely Weighty: One way God brings church members to final salvation is through the personal godliness and faithful teaching ministry of local church pastors!

Extremely Weighty: Conversely, one of the factors contributing to a church's spiritual decline is having pastors who are godless, theologically incorrect, or lack depth in their teachings.

Mounce: “This paradigm of Christian ministry, directed specifically to Timothy but applicable to ministers of all times, stands in judgment on those who neglect the teaching of Scripture, consume themselves with arguments about words devoid of godliness, bring reproach upon the

church by their sinful lives, refuse to immerse themselves in the things of God, and as a result are destroying not only themselves but also those who listen and follow their example. Conversely, it is a word of encouragement and hope to those who are faithful to the apostolic example and teaching of the gospel."

Conclusion

This is a timeless description of healthy pastoral ministry to all generations of the church!

Applications

(Question): How does this passage apply to the church?

(Question): How does this passage apply to the pastors of this church, especially the primary teaching and preaching pastor?

FBC Jackson
Wednesday Night Teaching
1 Timothy 5:1-16: Instructions for the Church: Part 1

Overview of 1 Timothy

Question: What are the two main themes of 1 Timothy?

Review: 1 Timothy 4:14-16

The Church, the Most Beautiful Place on Earth

- The Household of God
- The Church of the Living God
- The Pillar and Buttress of the Truth
- The Truth of the Gospel

1 Timothy 3:16: *"¹⁶ Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: / He was manifested in the flesh, / vindicated by the Spirit, / seen by angels, / proclaimed among the nations, / believed on in the world, / taken up in glory."*

Behavior Addressed So Far

- 1 Timothy 2:1-7: Pray for all people because God is the Savior of all people
- 1 Timothy 2:8: Men, pray with holy hands
- 1 Timothy 2:9-10: Women, adorn yourselves with good works
- 1 Timothy 2:11-15: Women, don't teach or exercise authority over a man
- 1 Timothy 3:1-7: Qualifications for pastors/overseers/elders
- 1 Timothy 3:8-13: Qualifications for deacons and their wives

Because the church is the household of God, the pillar and buttress of the truth, and the propagator and preserver of the Gospel, we shouldn't conduct ourselves according to our own wisdom; we should conduct ourselves according to God's Word!

Introduction: 1 Timothy 5:1-16

Overview of 1 Timothy 5

- Proper treatment of older men
- Proper treatment of younger men
- Proper treatment of older women
- Proper treatment of younger women
- Proper treatment of older widows
- Proper treatment of younger widows
- Proper treatment of elders/overseers/pastors

Tonight, we'll look at the first 16 verses of chapter 5. This primarily pertains to how the church is supposed to care for older and younger widows.

1st Point: Proper Treatment of All Ages (Verses 1-2)

1 Timothy 5:1-2: *"Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers (the age group Timothy belonged to), ² older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity."*

The church is the household of God, the family of God. This truth should directly influence how young elders treat certain members of the congregation. It should really influence how every member of the congregation should treat one another.

Proper Treatment of Older Men

- Respect and honor for the aged
- Thus, don't rebuke them
- NIV: Don't rebuke an older man harshly
- Instead, encourage him as you would a father
- NASB: Appeal to him as a father

Exodus 20:12: ¹² “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”

Leviticus 19:32: ³² “You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.”

R. K. Harrison: “Respect for the aged was a prominent feature of ancient Near Eastern societies, on the ground that age and wisdom went hand in hand. That this was not always the case is seen in the comment of Elihu to Job (Job 32:9), which constitutes the only criticism of its kind in the Old Testament. The insolence of young people towards their elders is usually regarded as presaging misfortune (cf. 2 Kgs 2:23–25; Isa. 3:5).”

Biblical wisdom exhorts younger men to humble themselves and show older men the respect and honor that's in keeping with their age, even when admonishing them.

Proper Treatment of Younger Men

- Don't appeal to them as sons
- Appeal to them as brothers

Proper Treatment of Older Women

- Remember: Honor for the aged
- Appeal to older women as mothers

Romans 16:13: ¹³ Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well.”

(Question): How can young men appeal to older women in the church as mothers?

Proper Treatment of Younger Women

- As sisters
- IN ALL PURITY

(Question): Why should young men be especially careful to treat young women in the church as “sisters, with absolute purity”?

(Question): How might a young man, especially a young overseer/pastor/elder, do this practically?

Kostenberger: “In relating to younger women, leaders in the church should set the example, not getting entangled in any potentially compromising situations.”

Kostenberger: “Pure devotion to Christ—and devotion to one's wife in the case of married church leaders—is the best safeguard against improper relationship with the other sex.”

2nd Point: Support True Widows (Verses 3-8)

1 Timothy 5:3-8: ³ Honor widows who are truly widows. ⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. ⁵ She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, ⁶ but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. ⁷ Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. ⁸ But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

What Does Paul Mean by Honor?

- Not just honor and respect
- But financial aid and assistance
- You see this in verse 8
- You see this in verses 17-18

1 Timothy 5:8: [“]8 *But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”*

1 Timothy 5:17-18: [“]17 *Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.* ¹⁸ *For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.”*

Within 1 Timothy 5, to honor a group of people is to honor and respect them by providing for them financially. We’re talking about honoring widows by providing for them financially.

James 1:27: [“]27 *Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”*

Questions You Should Be Asking

- Should the church provide financial support for every widow in its membership?
- Or should the church provide financial support for certain widows within its membership?

These verses clearly indicate that the church is obligated to care only for true widows.

(Question): According to this passage, who is a true widow?

1 Timothy 5:5: [“]5 *She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day,”*

True widows are those who are genuinely in need, lacking any other means of support, and who live a mature Christian life. The local church is obligated to care for these widows.

(Question): According to this passage, who isn’t a true widow?

1 Timothy 5:4: [“]4 *But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness (put their religion into practice) to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.”*

Children have a God-given obligation toward their parents & grandparents. One of the ways they live out their Christian faith is by providing for their needy parents and grandparents.

1 Timothy 5:6: [“]6 *but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives.”*

Donald Guthrie: “In the ancient world many widows were tempted to resort to immoral living as a means of support, and that is probably in the apostle’s mind when he uses the verb lives for pleasure. Moffatt renders it as ‘plunges into dissipation’. To be dead while still living is a thoroughly Pauline paradox, and Timothy is here reminded that widows supporting themselves illicitly are attempting to support what is already dead (‘a religious corpse’, according to Simpson). Such people clearly have no claim whatsoever on the church’s care. The instructions which Timothy is to give must refer to the responsibility of children to support their forbears (verse 4), and the responsibility of widows to fulfill the requirements mentioned in verse 5.”

The church is not obligated to care for ungodly widows who are seeking to provide for themselves in detestable and sinful ways.

A Stern Warning (Verse 8)

1 Timothy 5:8: [“]8 *But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”*

3rd Point: Qualifications of a True Widow (Verses 9-10)

1 Timothy 5:9-10: [“]Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, ¹⁰and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work.”

Three Qualifications for Widows to be Enrolled (Put On a List to Receive Aid)

- 60 years or older
- A wife of one husband
- Has a reputation for good works
- i.e., washed the feet of Christians
- Cared for the afflicted
- Carried out good works

(Question): Why do you think “not less than sixty years of age” is a qualification of a true widow?

William Mounce: “The first requirement for entering into a formal relationship with the church is that the widow must be at least sixty years old. This specific age guaranteed that the widow would not be prone to the problems of youth and also that the problem of becoming self-indulgent in opposition to Christ, with its sexual overtones, would not be a factor.”

1 Timothy 3:2: [“]Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife,”

1 Timothy 3:12: “Let deacons each be the husband of one wife . . .”

Griffin: “It is more likely that he was demanding faithfulness during her marriage to the husband she once had.”

1 Timothy 2:9-10: [“]likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.”

I do think there are exceptions! But, generally speaking, these are types of widows that the church should commit to provide for.

4th Point: Don’t Enroll Younger Widows (Verses 11-15)

1 Timothy 5:11-16: [“]But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry ¹²and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith. ¹³Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not. ¹⁴So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. ¹⁵For some have already strayed after Satan.”

(Question): What is your initial response to the very negative things Paul says about these younger widows?

Reasons the Church Shouldn’t Enroll Younger Women

- Sinful passions draw them away
- They desire to marry (more than likely an unbeliever)
- Rather than being busy, they’re idlers
- Rather than serving, they’re gossips

William Mounce: “Paul’s central concern is not remarriage. He cannot be condemning the widows for remarrying because he recommends remarriage two verses later. The real problem is that younger widows have given themselves over to a self-centered, self-indulgent lifestyle and

have followed after Satan. Their desire to remarry is symptomatic of their wantonness, and it is a wanton remarriage that Paul condemns. . . The most likely interpretation is that the widows were giving in to their sensual desires, turning against Christ, marrying non-Christians, and abandoning their former faith, the Christian faith they had before they remarried.”

Griffin: “They learned idleness and flitted about from house to house. By occupation they were professional time-wasters who were disrupting the spiritual peace of the community.

I do think there are exceptions! But, generally speaking, these are types of widows that the church should not commit to providing for.

The Exceptions!

Griffin: “Obviously Paul’s request did not exclude genuinely needy younger widows from necessary help. He did not want younger widows to be regular recipients.”

William Mounce: “This does not mean that the church cannot aid younger widows; it means that they must not be enrolled into a formal, ongoing financial relationship with the church.”

What Should Young Widows Do?

- Marry in the Lord
- Have some babies
- Manage the home
- Be busy in godly ways
- Rather than ungodly ways
- This is God’s design

Donald Guthrie: “Rather than become idle scoundrels, these women should devote themselves to the bearing of children and the managing of homes. Paul sees the mother’s task as involving the ruling of the household.”

Griffin: “He urged younger widows to assume the responsible behavior appropriate to a married woman rather than the idle, meddlesome actions of a peripatetic tattletale.”

1 Timothy 2:15: “¹⁵ Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.”

Conclusion

1 Timothy 5:16: “¹⁶ If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.”

According to Scripture, there shouldn’t be a general handout to all widows regardless of their circumstances or lifestyles. Instead, the church’s limited financial resources should focus on those who have a genuine need and have lived godly lives.

Applications

Mercy Ministry is Hard, Even When It Comes to Widows. Give Some Thought To It!

- It’s not about helping anybody and everybody
- It requires godly wisdom
- It requires discernment

Though This Teaching is Hard. . . It’s Good for the Church!

- The church doesn’t have unlimited resources
- The church has limited resources
- Gotta take care of true widows

(Question): Any other thoughts or questions?

FBC Jackson
Wednesday Night Teaching
1 Timothy 5:17-25: Instructions for the Church: Part 2

Overview of 1 Timothy

Question: What are the two main themes of 1 Timothy?

1 Timothy 3:14-15: *"¹⁴I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth."*

Review: 1 Timothy 5:1-16

Proper Treatment of Different Groups in a Local Church

- Older men & younger men (1)
- Older women & younger women (2)
- Older widows & younger widows (3-16)

Introduction: 1 Timothy 5:17-25

Proper Treatment of Church Leaders

- Elders who rule well (17-18)
- Elders who are in sin (19-20)
- Don't hastily ordain elders (21-25)

THE PROPER TREATMENT OF CHURCH LEADERS!

1st Point: How Should We Treat Elders Who Rule Well? (Verses 17-18)

1 Timothy 5:17-18: *"¹⁷Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. ¹⁸For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages.’"*

The Command (Verse 17a): *"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor..."*

- Office of elder/overseer/pastor
- Always a plurality of elders
- Elders who rule well: think manage; oversee; and care for the church

Acts 20:17-18, 28: *"¹⁷... he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him.*

¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them: ... ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood."

1 Peter 5:1-2: *"So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ²shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight..."*

Acts 14:23: *"²³And when they had appointed elders for them in every church..."*

Titus 1:5: *"⁵This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you..."*

1 Timothy 3:4-5, 12: *"⁴He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?... ¹²Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well."*

Griffin: "The expression 'direct the affairs of the church' refers to the act of giving leadership and supervision to church ministries. The usage does not suggest an aggressive, dictatorial style of leadership. Paul's previous use of the term in describing the activities of

a firm but gracious father in 3:4,12 ('manage') shows that he had more than mere exercise of authority in mind."

Elders who provide oversight and leadership for the church of God deserve double honor. Therefore, Paul commands the church in Ephesus to give them this double honor!

(Question): What does it mean to "consider them worthy of double honor"?

1 Timothy 5:3-4, 8, 16: [“]3 Honor widows who are truly widows. ⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. . . . ⁸ But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. . . . ¹⁶ If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.”

Throughout 1 Timothy 5, honor is used in reference to respect and financial reward/pay.

Verse 17b: “. . . especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.”

- Every church: a plurality of elders
- Every elder should be able to preach and teach (skilled with Scripture)
- Not all elders care for the church of God by primarily preaching and teaching

Above all, those elders who diligently serve the church of God through preaching and teaching should receive double honor, respect and financial compensation, from the congregation.

The Reasons (verse 18): “¹⁸ For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.”

- Paul quotes OT
- Paul quotes NT

Deuteronomy 25:4: ⁴ “You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.”

(Questions): 1) Why did God forbid the OT Israelites from muzzling an ox when it was treading out the grain? 2) How does this OT quote motivate the church to be obedient to the command?

Thompson: “Arguing from the legislation in Deuteronomy 25:4, Paul pointed out that the ox that trampled out the grain, which was part of the farmer’s staple diet, was not to be muzzled but was allowed, as some compensation for his toil, some share in the grain. Similarly, argued Paul, those who toil to produce spiritual food for Christian believers should receive adequate compensation for their labours, represented in terms of a share in the material benefits enjoyed by those they had helped.”

Luke 10:5-7: ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ ⁶ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷ And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages.”

“Neither quotation is particularly flattering to elders, since in the flattering to presbyters, since in the first they are likened to threshing oxen, and in the second to farm laborers. But Paul’s purpose in employing these models is not to deprecate the pastoral ministry, but rather to emphasize that it is hard work, and that hard work performed conscientiously deserves to be rewarded.”

John Stott

2nd Point: How Should We Treat Elders Who Are In Sin? (Verses 19-20)

1 Timothy 5:19-20: “¹⁹ Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁰ As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.”

The 1st Command (Verse 19): “Don’t admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.”

- Don’t admit a charge on the evidence of one witness
- Only admit a charge on the evidence of two witnesses

(Question): Why is bringing a charge against one of the elders of a local church a weighty thing?

(Question): How does verse 13 protect an elder from a false accusation?

Exodus 20:16: “¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

Deuteronomy 19:15: “¹⁵ A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.”

John Stott: “Indeed, two or three witnesses are to be required not only before and accusation is sustained, but before it is entertained at all.”

(Question): Why are elders far more likely to be falsely accused of sin than anyone else in the church?

Protestant Reformer: “None are more exposed to slanders and insults than godly teachers. They may perform their duties correctly and conscientiously, yet they never avoid a thousand criticisms.”

IF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES BRING A CREDIBLE ACCUSATION AGAINST AN ELDER, THEN WHAT?!

The Second Command (Verse 20a): “²⁰ As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all . . .”

- Persist in sin
- Present active participle
- No godly sorrow
- No repentance
- No end in sight
- Rebuke them in the presence of the congregation

Matthew 18:15-17: “¹⁵ If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”

The Reason: “. . . so that the rest may stand in fear.”

- The rest see the rebuke
- Or the rest hear the rebuke
- And they stand in fear

(Question): How does a public rebuke of an elder promote the fear of God within the congregation?

BUT THE PROCESS MUST BE SLOW. . . UNLESS THE SIN IS VERY EGREGIOUS!

Stott: "Such a public rebuke, though an effective deterrent, must be the last resort, however. It is a safe rule that private sins should be dealt with privately, and only public sins publicly. It is neither right nor necessary to make what is private public, until all other possibilities have been exhausted."

3rd Point: How Should We Ordain Elders? (Verses 21-25)

1 Timothy 5:21-25: *"²¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality. ²²Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure. ²³(No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.) ²⁴The sins of some people are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later. ²⁵So also good works are conspicuous, and even those that are not cannot remain hidden."*

A SOLEMN CHARGE: GOD, CHRIST JESUS, ELECT ANGELS!

Verse 21b: *"Keep these rules (about disciplining elders) without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality."*

- Prejudging: without jumping to conclusions about guilt or innocence
- Partiality: without showing favoritism

(Question): Why is it so important for fellow elders to carry out the process of church discipline against a fellow elder without prejudging?

(Question): Why is it so important for fellow elders to carry out the process of church discipline against an elder without partiality?

Kostenberger: "It remains a challenge for pastors to refrain from partiality in the case of elders or candidates for elder, especially when their influence in the church is due to wealth or prestige. What matters is conformity to the requirements laid down for church leaders, particularly maturity of character, not status or money."

Verse 22: *"²²Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands (ordaining men to be elders), nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourself pure."*

- Don't be hasty: slow down
- Nor take part in the sins of others: implicate yourself
- For example: Preston Quillen
- Keep yourself pure: don't hastily appoint unqualified people
- And don't implicate yourself by appointing unqualified people

Griffin: "Paul hinted that one who participates in such an appointment shares in the sinful results that can easily follow."

Stott: "Otherwise, if through excessive haste a mistake is made, and a scandal arises, Timothy will share in the sins of others, or find himself 'implicated in other people's misdeeds."

Barrett: "Hastily to ordain an elder who later would bring reproach upon the Church and have to be publicly exposed (v.20) would be an act of shocking irresponsibility, and it would involve Timothy in the sins of the unworthy ordinand."

Verse 23: ²³(No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.)

- This has puzzled people
- Most don't know why
- I'll tell you why!!!!!!!

Confronting false teachers & carrying out church discipline on unrepentant elders will stress you out, upset your stomach, and harm your health! So drink a little wine for medicinal purposes! (Caveat. . . I don't drink!)

Verses 24-25: .) ²⁴The sins of some people are conspicuous (evident), going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later. ²⁵So also good works are conspicuous (evident), and even those that are not cannot remain hidden.”

- Why you should be slow to ordain
- Some men are evidently unqualified
- Some men are unqualified, but it often takes time to realize it.
- Some men are evidently qualified
- Some men are qualified, but it often takes time to notice

SO, TAKE YOUR TIME AND GET IT RIGHT!

Conclusion

Show double honor to the elders who rule well, especially to those who preach and teach. Rebuke elders who persist in sin. Because of everything that is at stake, cautiously and slowly ordain men to serve as elders in the life of the church!

Applications

Our Elders Are Well Compensated

- Continue to show us respect and honor
- Give to the general budget faithfully

(Question): In what ways can you show and express respect for your pastors?

Don't Listen or Participate in Gossip About the Pastors. . . Get the Facts!

- False Accusations against a pastor are a big deal
- Make sure you're not propagating one
- Make sure you're not believing one!

Pastors Need to Know They Are Not Above Discipline

- If they remain in unrepentant sin
- They should be disciplined by the congregation

Don't Hastily Put Anyone In Leadership Roles

- Make sure they're qualified
- You won't be implicated in their sin
- You'll save the church a whole lot of heartache

(Question): Can you think of any other applications?

FBC Jackson
Wednesday Night Teaching
1 Timothy 6:1-2: Instructions for the Church: Part 3

Overview of 1 Timothy

(Question): What are the two main themes of 1 Timothy?

1 Timothy 3:14-15: *¹⁴I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth."*

Review: 1 Timothy 5

Proper Treatment of Different Groups in the Local Church

- Older men & younger men (1)
- Older women & younger women (2)
- Older widows & younger widows (3-16)
- Faithful Elders/Pastors/Overseers (17-18)
- Unfaithful Elders/Pastors/Overseers (19-25)

(Question): This local church is the household of God. What happens when the members of this household don't treat one another properly?

Because the church is the household of God, the members of the household must treat one another properly for the household to function healthily.

Introduction: 1 Timothy 6:1-2

Still Dealing with The Proper Treatment of Different Groups

- How should Christian slaves treat unbelieving masters?
- How should Christian slaves treat believing masters?

Main Idea: Even though slavery is a result of sin, Christian slaves should live for the glory of God's name and the adornment of God's gospel!

These two verses will complete the household code that started in 1 Timothy 5:1. But first, let's get a biblical framework for the topic of slavery.

1st Point: Various Types of Slavery (We Gotta Know What Slavery We're Dealing With)

Hebrew Servanthood

- Poor Hebrews would sell themselves to other Hebrews to escape poverty
- Bible commanded humane treatment
- Year of Jubilee, they were to be released

Leviticus 25:35-43: *³⁵If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you. ³⁶Take no interest from him or profit, but fear your God, that your brother may live beside you. ³⁷You shall not lend him your money at interest, nor give him your food for profit. ³⁸I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan, and to be your God. ³⁹If your brother becomes poor beside you and sells himself to you, you shall not make him serve as a slave: ⁴⁰he shall be with you as a hired worker and as a sojourner. He shall serve with you until the year of the jubilee. ⁴¹Then he shall go out from you, he and his children with him, and go back to his own clan and return to the possession of his fathers. ⁴²For they are my servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; they shall not be sold as slaves. ⁴³You shall not rule over him ruthlessly but shall fear your God."*

Indentured Servitude

- Common in colonial America
- Similar to Hebrew servanthood
- Couldn't afford to come to the New World
- You could contract yourself out
- Work for a time
- Pay off your debt
- Enjoy the new world!

Platt: "Historians estimate that over one-half to two-thirds of European white immigrants who came to America came as indentured servants."

African Slave Trade

- 18th and 19th Century
- Millions and Millions of Africans
- Based on ethnicity & skin color
- Stolen, traded, and sold
- Incredibly inhumane

Fredrick Douglas: "He was a cruel man, hardened by a long life of slave-holding. He would at times seem to take great pleasure in whipping a slave. I have often been awakened at the dawn of day by the most heart-rending shrieks of an own aunt of mine, whom he used to tie up to a joist, and whip... till she was literally covered with blood. No words, no tears, no prayer, from his glory victim, seems to move his iron heart from its bloody purpose."

Paul wasn't addressing any of these types of slavery. When Paul, or Peter for that matter, addressed slavery, they addressed Greco-Roman slavery.

Greco-Roman Slavery

- Roman Empire: Slavery was ingrained
- Approximately 50-60 million slaves
- 1/3 of the population
- Not based on ethnicity or skin color
- Based on economic and social status
- Sometimes civilized; sometimes inhumane

Yarbrough: "Slavery was onerous and undesirable, but it was universal across the Roman Empire..."

Platt: "Despite the more humane practices of slavery in some cases, we don't want to paint an idealistic picture of slavery. After all, a slave was still a slave—marginalized, powerless, and often prone to disgrace or insult."

2nd Point: The New Testament's Teaching on Slavery (Establishing a Foundation)

First, The New Testament Explicitly Condemns Certain Forms of Slavery

- 8th Commandment
- Forbidden: Stealing people
- Paul forbids man-stealing
- Exodus 21:26-27
- Paul forbids threatening

Exodus 20:15: "¹⁵ You shall not steal."

Exodus 21:16: "¹⁶ Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death."

1 Timothy 1:8-10: "⁸ Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹ understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰ the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers,"

Exodus 21:26-27: “²⁶When a man strikes the eye of his slave, male or female, and destroys it, he shall let the slave go free because of his eye. ²⁷If he knocks out the tooth of his slave, male or female, he shall let the slave go free because of his tooth.”

Ephesians 6:9: “⁹Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.”

Secondly, The New Testament Regulates Other Forms of Slavery

- It is accepted as an existing institution
- It is not formally condemned
- It is not formally approved
- Paul and Peter: Not seeking a revolution & change of social order
- Paul and Peter: Instruct Christian slaves and masters on how to live

The Expositors Greek Testament on Ephesians 6:5: “Here, as elsewhere in the NT, slavery is accepted as an existing institution, which is neither formally condemned nor formally approved. There is nothing to prompt revolutionary action, or to encourage repudiation of the position.”

Yarbrough: “Paul’s immediate goal in ministry was not revolutionary change of the social order: it was preaching and teaching the gospel for the sake of establishing enclaves of Christian believers and thereby ultimately redeeming the world.”

I SEE THE WISDOM OF GOD IN THIS: SLAVERY HAS STILL NOT BEEN ERADICATED. UNTIL THE LORD COMES, SLAVERY WILL NOT BE ERADICATED. WE HAVE A HOLY BOOK THAT INSTRUCTS CHRISTIAN SLAVES AND MASTERS ON HOW TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE!

Thirdly, New Testament Teaching Leads to the Abolishment of All Forms of Slavery

- Slavery is undermined by Christian principles
- Image of God: Human dignity
- Salvation: One in Christ
- The Church: Christian brotherhood
- The Church: One another commands
- Lordship of Christ: He’s the ultimate master
- Judgment Day: We’ll give an account
- Freedom: Get it if you can
- Slavery can’t survive a Christian worldview!

Yarbrough: “Christianity did not understand itself to be a revolutionary movement even through its teachings had clear reformatory implications.” In due course, Christian doctrine and practice could and did challenge corrupt institutions like slavery (though societies free from slavery are still corrupt because of pervasive human sin and oppression by other means).”

(Question): What type of Christian principles undermine and challenge the institution of slavery?

Colossians 4:1: “*Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.*”

1 Corinthians 7:20: “²⁰Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called. ²¹Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.)”

Throughout history, Christians who held strong Christian convictions have led the way in abolishing the institution of slavery in the cultures and societies in which they lived.

3rd Point: How to Read and Apply 1 Timothy 6:1-2

Foundation of These Commands

- Honor those in authority
- Especially when you work and serve
- Use your authority to give life
- Especially to those under you

Francis Foulkes: "... the principles of the whole section apply to employees and employers in every age, whether in the home, in business, or in the state."

Köstenberger: "Today, of course, slavery has largely been abolished, though the principle of believers honoring Christ by respecting those in authority over them continued to be vital 'so that God's name and his teaching will not be blasphemed.'"

It's perfectly valid to interpret these passages in light of employee/employer relationships!

4th Point: Duty to any Master (Employer)

1 Timothy 6:1: "Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled."

The Duty: "regard your master as worthy of all honor

- Don't despise
- Don't malign
- Don't give minimal service
- BUT REGARD YOUR MASTER AS WORTHY OF ALL HONOR!

(Question): The word honor can imply a lot. What all do you think is entailed when Paul commands slaves to "regard their own masters as worthy of all honor?"

Titus 2:9: "¹⁹ Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative,"

Colossians 3:22-23: "²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.
²³ Whatever you do, work heartily as for the Lord and not for men . . ."

Ephesians 6:5-7: "⁵ Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man . . ."

(Question): Why do you think we're so prone to dishonor those who have authority over us?

Christian slaves were to honor God by honoring their masters. And Christian employees are to honor God by honoring their employers.

The Reason: "so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled."

- We can live in such a way that we lead others to blaspheme the name of God
- We can live in such a way that we lead others to revile the Christian faith
- We can live in such a way that we lead others to honor the name of God
- We can live in such a way that we adorn the gospel of our glorious Savior!

Yarbrough: "God's name" is "a powerful expression of his personal rule and activity"⁸⁰¹ and refers to his full being, authority, and majesty."

Romans 2:24: *"²⁴For, as it is written, "The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."*

Oliver Greene: "Young man, young woman—if you are a Christian, do not be any less alert and on the job when the boss is absent than you are when he is looking at you. Your earthly master may not always be watching you, but the Heavenly Master sees and knows all that you do. So whether your job is that of superintendent in a huge plant or janitor in a small office, never forget that if you do not give your employer a good day's work in the right spirit, you are bringing reproach upon the name of Jesus."

Titus 2:9-10: *"⁹Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, ¹⁰not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior."*

Oliver Greene: "Any Christian who has an employer must render to that employer a good day's work and proper respect, lest reproach be brought upon the Gospel."

Yarbrough: "The temptation to despise, malign, and give minimal service to masters was no doubt just as compelling as contempt for employers is for many today."

Christian slaves were to preserve the reputation of God's name and the beauty of Christian teaching by honoring their masters. And Christian employees are to do the same!

5th Point: Duty to a Believing Master (Employer)

1 Timothy 6:2: *"²Those who have believing masters must not be disrespectful on the ground that they are brothers; rather they must serve all the better since those who benefit by their good service are believers and beloved."*

The Duty: "Don't disrespect Christian masters; serve all the better!"

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't disrespect• Don't despise• Don't malign	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't give minimal service• Serve all the better• Give better service
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Christian slaves should honor God by honoring, respecting, and whole-heartedly serving their Christian masters. The same goes for Christian employees.

The Reason.....

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They're your brothers• They're believers in Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They're beloved by God• They benefit from your hard work!
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Conclusion

Household Managers

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elders/Pastors/Overseers• Over God's Household	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Called to Manage and Govern
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In order to an elder/pastor/overseer to manage God's household well, he must teach, instruct, and lead the various groups in the church to relate to one another in a God honoring ways!

Applications

(Question): How does this passage help us see the value of our daily labor?

(Question): What applications flow from this passage and teaching?

FBC Jackson
Wednesday Night Teaching
1 Timothy 6:3-10: A Final Indictment of False Teachers

Overview of 1 Timothy

(Question): What are the two main themes of 1 Timothy?

1 Timothy 3:14-15: *"¹⁴I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth."*

As Paul addresses false teachers and their teachings, he informs Timothy of how the household of God ought to function, from how men ought to pray to what widows should be enrolled on the list to receive the care of the church.

Introduction: A Final Indictment of False Teachers

A Major Theme of the Letter

- At the beginning
- In the middle

1 Timothy 1:3-4: *"As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine . . ."*

1 Timothy 4:1-3: *"Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ²through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, ³who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. . ."*

A Final Indictment of False Teachers at the End

- Chapter 6: Closing exhortations to Timothy
- Begins with a heavy focus on false teachers

As we read this passage, we'll notice Paul's seriousness. In his mind, a full and final denunciation of false teachers is critical. The health of the church, God's household, is at stake. Thus, God's glory is at stake.

1st Point: The Essence of False Teachers

1 Timothy 6:3: *"³If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness,"*

First, There's A Standard of Teaching

- Verse 1: "Teaching"
- Verse 3: "Sound words"
- Verse 5: "The truth"
- Verses 10, 12, 21: "The faith"
- Verse 14: "The Commandment"
- Verse 20: It's "entrusted"

Jude 3: *"Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints."*

(Question): Where is this standard of teaching, this body of doctrine, this faith that was once for all delivered to the saints, found?

There's a standard of teaching, a body of doctrine that has been entrusted to the church, especially to the pastors. They are to steward this body of doctrine for the glory of God.

Second, The Description of This Teaching

- “Sound words” of Jesus
- “Healthy words” of Jesus
- It “accords with godliness”

Kostenberger: “Sound’, which is part of the medical vocabulary. . . As in the case of the human body, for the body of apostolic teaching to be sound and healthy means to be free from any sickness or contamination, unlike the teaching of the opponents, which is unhealthy and causes those who listen to become spiritually sick.”

(Questions): How would you define the term “godliness”? What do you think Paul means when he says, “the teaching that accords with godliness”?

1 Timothy 6:3 (CSB): *“If anyone teaches false doctrine and does not agree with the sound teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ and with the teaching that promotes godliness. . .”*

This body of doctrine is healthy, it is free from any sickness or contamination, and it promotes practical godliness and holiness!

Third, The Essence of False Teaching

- “A different doctrine”
- Disagrees “with the sound words”

(Questions): So, what is the essence of false teaching? How is the church supposed to notice it?

2nd Point: The Root and Results of False Teaching

1 Timothy 6:4-5: *“⁴ he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.”*

The Root of False Teaching

- Pride: “Puffed up with conceit”
- Spiritual ignorance: “Understands nothing”
- Sick and Warped: “Unhealthy craving for controversy”
- Love of money: “Godliness is a means of financial gain”
- The false teacher’s main motivation!

(Question): How is deviation from sound doctrine evidence of pride and ignorance?

Stott: “Here then are two essential marks of sound teaching. It comes from Christ, and it promotes godliness. Anybody who disagrees with it, therefore, is conceited and understands nothing (4a). Or, putting the two phrases together, he is a ‘conceited idiot’ or a ‘pompous ignoramus.’ This is strong language. But then the false teacher is guilty of a serious offense. For to disagree with Paul is to disagree with Christ.”

1 Timothy 6:10: *“¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”*

(Questions): “Godliness is a means to financial gain.” What is the biggest problem with that? If we simplify the verse, we could say they believe “Jesus is a means to gaining money.” How does that expose the true heart problem with these people?

John Stott: “They have no interest in godliness itself, but only if it proves to be financially profitable.”

Shai Linne: “... if you come to Jesus for money, then He's not your God, money is!”

Paul paints an extremely unflattering view of these false teachers!

Excuses: Remember the Qualifications of an overseer/elder/pastor!

1 Timothy 3:3: “... not a lover of money.”

1 Timothy 3:3: “not quarrelsome”

1 Timothy 3:6: “He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil.”

Be sure to appoint pastors who meet the qualifications outlined in 1 Timothy 3. If not, you might find yourself under an arrogant false teacher who promotes heretical doctrine for the purpose of making ill-gotten gain!

The Results of False Teaching

- Pride and ignorance lead to controversy and quarreling
- Controversy and quarreling lead to church division

(Question): Why do some people seem to love doctrinal controversies?

Kostenberger: “Paul’s primary concern is the devastating effect of such speculation on the practical outworking of people’s faith. God’s people must not be sidetracked by side issues but must focus on growing in Christian character as a natural outflow of having accepted the gospel.”

These sins: envy, dissension, slander, and evil suspicions are church destroying sins!

Kostenberger: “Taken together, the deadly combination of these vices will have a cancerous effect, slowly but surely eating away whatever spiritual life remains in the congregation.”

3rd Point: Learn from the Demise of the False Teachers

1 Timothy 6:6-10: ⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”

The false teachers imagine that godliness is a means of gain. In reality, godliness with contentment is the true gain, regardless of material or financial prosperity.

First, Let’s Look at Definitions of Contentment

Jeremiah Burroughs: “Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God’s wise and fatherly disposal in every condition.”

Erik Raymond: “The inward gracious spirit that joyfully rests in God’s providence.”

Andy Davis: “Christian contentment is finding delight in God’s wise plan for my life and humbly allowing him to direct me in it.”

Christian contentment is finding satisfaction in God’s provision, purpose, and plan in the midst of any and every circumstance.

Second, Let's Look at the Secret to Contentment

- We brought nothing into the world
- We can't take anything out of the world
- Brief pilgrimage from birth to death
- We only need the necessities

Job 1:21: *"²¹And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."*

John Stott: "We're born naked and penniless, and when we die and are buried we are naked and penniless again. . . . Our on earth is a brief pilgrimage between two moments of nakedness. . . . For possessions are only the travelling luggage of time; they are not the stuff of eternity. It would be sensible, therefore to travel light and, as Jesus himself commanded us, not to store up for ourselves treasures on earth."

Third, Let's Think About the Perils of Covetousness

- "Desire to be rich"
- "Fall into temptation"
- "Fall into a snare"
- "Fall into many senseless and harmful desires"
- Plunged into "ruin and destruction"
- "The love of money"
- "a root of all kinds of evil"
- "Wander from the faith"
- "Pierced themselves with many pangs"

(Question): Why is it so important for Paul to say "Money is a root of all kinds of evil" rather than money is the root of all kinds of evil"?

(Question): How is Judas a perfect example of everything Paul is saying in these verses?

Just look at the false teachers!!!!

Applications

(Question): How can we grow in our understanding of the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints?

(Question): How can we put materialism and the sin of covetousness to death?

(Question): How can we grow in contentedness?

FBC Jackson
Wednesday Night Teaching
1 Timothy 6:11-16: Final Exhortations to Timothy

Overview of 1 Timothy

(Question): What are the two main themes of 1 Timothy?

1 Timothy 1:3: *¹³As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine...*

1 Timothy 3:14-15: *¹⁴I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth."*

The church should always be focused on two things: right doctrine and right living!

Review: A Final Indictment of False Teachers (1 Timothy 6:2b-10)

False Teachers Disagree....

- With sound, healthy doctrine
- With the words of Christ
- With the doctrine that accords with godliness

There's a standard of teaching, a body of doctrine, that has been entrusted to the church, especially to the pastors. If teachers disagree and oppose this doctrine, they are false teachers.

False Teachers Are . . .

- Prideful: "Puffed up with conceit"
- Spiritually Ignorant: "Understand nothing"
- Sick and Warped: "Have an unhealthy craving for controversy"
- Love money: "Think godliness is a means of gain"
- Main incentive: MONEY! MONEY! MONEY!

1 Timothy 6:5: *...imagining that godliness is a means of gain."*

Because of this, false teachers stir up controversy, divide the church, and dishonor the Lord!

Introduction: A Final Exhortations to Timothy

1 Timothy 6:11-16

- Contrary to the false teachers
- Timothy should be a faithful
- Contrary to the false teachers
- Timothy should pursue righteousness

In this section, Paul gives a final exhortation to Timothy that should leave a lasting impression on Timothy.

A Brief Word. . .

- Though this is written to Timothy
- It applies to all
- Timothy is an example, a model
- The church is to imitate him

1 Timothy 4:12: *¹²Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.*

Titus 2:7: *⁷Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works,*

The entire church, especially church leaders, should follow what Paul is about to say to Timothy.

1st Point: Timothy, Flee and Pursue! (Verse 11)

1 Timothy 6:11: *¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.*

BUT AS FOR YOU!

A Significant Title: “O Man of God”

- Moses
- Samuel

Deuteronomy 33:1: *This is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the people of Israel before his death. . .*

Psalm 90 Title: *“A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.”*

1 Samuel 9:6: *“But he said to him, “Behold, there is a man of God in this city, and he is a man who is held in honor; all that he says comes true.”*

(Question): Why do you think Paul calls Timothy a “man of God”?

Yarbrough: *This correlation is unlikely to indicate that Paul saw Timothy as a new Moses, Elijah, or David. But it does invest Timothy’s role and position with the gravity of a tradition in which God leads his people through chosen shepherds and teachers of his word.”*

A Brief Word on Sanctification

- Negative side of sanctification
- Flee!
- Put off the old self!
- Put to death!
- Positive side of sanctification
- Pursue!
- Put on the new self!
- Put on!

(Question): What’s a good biblical definition of sanctification?

Negatively, Flee What The False Teachers Pursue!

- Defining our terms
- “Flee these things”
- What things?
- All evil
- Especially the love of money, the desire to be rich

Flee: Danger! Flee! Escape! Disappear quickly!

1 Corinthians 6:18: *¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality.*

2 Timothy 2:22: *²² So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*

1 Timothy 6:5: *“. . . imagining that godliness is a means of gain.”*

(Question): Why is it so important for a man of God, a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, to flee from the love of money?

1 Timothy 6:9-10: *⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.*

Flee all evil, especially the love of money! But for the Christian, fleeing is only half the battle!

Positively, Pursue What The False Teachers Flee!

- Defining our terms
- Righteousness; godliness
- Faith; love
- Steadfastness; gentleness

Pursue: There's a goal! Press forward! Strive toward it! Do something with an intense effort

(Questions): 1) What does it mean to pursue righteousness? 2) What does it mean to pursue godliness?

Righteousness: "Conformity to a certain set of expectations, which vary from role to role. Righteousness is fulfillment of the expectations in any relationship, whether with God or other people. . Therefore, righteousness denotes the fulfilled expectations in relationships between man and wife, parents and children, fellow citizens, employer and employee, merchant and customers, ruler and citizens, and God and man."

Godliness: "To live in the reverence and awe of God; to be *so conscious* of God's presence that one lives just as God would live if He were walking upon earth. It means to live seeking to be like God; to seek to possess the very character, nature, and behavior of God."

(Question) Why is it so important for a man of God to pursue patience and gentleness while shepherding a local church?

2nd Point: Timothy, Fight and Take Hold! (Verse 12)

1 Timothy 6:12: "¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

Fight The Good Fight Of Faith!

- Definition of fight
- Definition of faith
- The false teachers wandered from the faith
- Timothy needs to fight the good fight of faith
- A gentle warrior for the truth!

Fight: Compete; make effort; struggle

Yarbrough: "At stake is "the faith," the message he is charged to promulgate and the doctrine he has been trained to pass along faithfully. "This command has to do with doctrine," not just courageous action with religious sincerity."

1 Timothy 6:10: "¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs."

Jude 3: "³ Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints."

(Question): To be involved in a fight is unpleasant. It's even unpleasant to be involved in a good fight. Nevertheless, it's necessary. Why is it necessary?

Stott: "It has to be fought. For truth is precious, even sacred. Being truth from God, we cannot neglect it without affronting him. It is also essential for the health and growth of the church. So whenever truth is imperiled by false teachers, to defend it is a painful necessity."

(Question): Can you think of any examples from church history where men of God have valiantly fought the good fight of faith, defending the truth of the gospel?

Take Hold of the Eternal Life To Which You Were Called...

- God called Timothy to eternal life
- Timothy confessed this at his baptism
- Timothy has this supernatural life
- Timothy is to take hold of it!

Verse 12: *"Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."*

Take Hold: Grasp; seize

(Question): Is the eternal life we have in Christ a present possession or a future hope?

Stott: "Although Timothy had already received eternal life, Paul urged him to seize it, grasp it, lay hold of it, make it completely his own, enjoy it and live it to the full!"

Platt: "Eternal life is freely given, for God has 'called' us to it, but we fight to take hold of it by faith. In effect, Paul instructs believers to experience the life you have been given. . . . You are in Christ and you have His life in you, but you struggle on a daily basis to experience the fullness of this supernatural life."

3rd Point: Incentives to Obey! (Verse 13-15a)

1 Timothy 6:13-15a: *"¹³ I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴ to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will display at the proper time—"*

Keep the commandment, everything he's said thus far, unstained and free from reproach!

Incentive # 1: A Solemn Charge

- Witness #1: God
- The giver of life
- Witness #2: Christ Jesus
- The courageous confessor

(Question): How does God give life to all things?

(Question): How do we see Jesus's boldness and courage when he testified and confessed to who he was before Pontius Pilate?

Yarbrough: "Before Pilate, Jesus stated clearly who he was (Luke 23:3), at great peril to his life, humanly speaking. Now at Ephesus Timothy has the opportunity to state clearly who he takes Jesus to be, whatever threats and loss he might face in doing so. Paul "draws a parallel between Jesus appearing before a hostile ruler and Timothy (and Paul) bearing witness before hostile people inside and outside the church."

Incentive # 2: The Return of Christ

- UNTIL the appearing of Christ
- This will happen at the proper time

(Question): How does the imminent and inevitable return of Christ compel obedience?

Matthew 24:44: *"⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."*

Matthew 25:13: *"¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."*

The presence of God and Christ and the return of Christ are major incentives to holiness!

4th Point: A Closing Doxology (Verses 15b-16)

1 Timothy 6:15b-16: “he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.”

God is Invincible

- ONLY sovereign
- KING of kings
- LORD of lords

“He who is the blessed and only sovereign, the king of kings and Lord of lords. . .”

The God of Scripture is the ultimate King and Supreme Lord! These terms emphatically affirm God’s sovereignty over human affairs!

Isaiah 40:18-25: “¹⁸To whom then will you liken God, / or what likeness compare with him? / ¹⁹An idol! A craftsman casts it, / and a goldsmith overlays it with gold / and casts for it silver chains. / ²⁰He who is too impoverished for an offering / chooses wood that will not rot; / he seeks out a skillful craftsman / to set up an idol that will not move. / ²¹Do you not know? Do you not hear? / Has it not been told you from the beginning? / Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? / ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, / and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; / who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, / and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; / ²³who brings princes to nothing, / and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. / ²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, / scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, / when he blows on them, and they wither, / and the tempest carries them off like stubble. / ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, / that I should be like him? says the Holy One.”

Daniel 4:34-35: “³⁴At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, / for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, / and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; / ³⁵all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, / and he does according to his will among the host of heaven / and among the inhabitants of the earth; / and none can stay his hand / or say to him, “What have you done?””

God Alone Has Immortality

- Angels are immortal
- We be resurrected in immortal bodies
- BUT GOD ALONE HAS IMMORTALITY!

“alone has immortality. . .”

(Question): What does it mean when it says that He alone is immortal?

Kostenberger: “God alone is not subject to death (rather, death is subject to God).”

Stott: “God is immortal, not subject to the changes caused by time, death or dissolution; he and he alone is immortal, literally possesses immortality. True, human being also are immortal, in the sense that we survive death. But only God ‘has life in himself.’ ‘Our immortality constitutes an endowment, not an innate property.’”

God is Unapproachable

- He dwells
- He lives
- In unapproachable light
- In inaccessible light

“dwells in unapproachable light”

(Questions): Throughout Scripture, what is a light a symbol of? So what does it mean for God to dwell in unapproachable light?

Stott: “Darkness in any shape or form, whether falsehood or evil, cannot enter his presence, let alone overcome.”

Platt: “God lives in an atmosphere of blinding holiness.”

God Is Invisible

- Beyond human sight
- Beyond human comprehension

“whom no one has ever seen or can see.”

Stott: “All that human eyes have been allowed to behold is his ‘glory,’ his back not his face, his appearing as a theophany, or his image in his incarnate Son. Being in himself invisible, we can come to know him only in so far as he has been pleased to make himself known. Otherwise, he is wholly beyond us!”

To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

Conclusion

A lasting impression indeed!

Applications

- By faith, FLEE! By faith, PURSUE!
- Truth is precious! Fight the good fight of faith!
- We have eternal life! On a daily basis, seize it!
- Since God and Christ are witnesses, obey!
- Since the Lord Jesus Christ will return, obey!
- Let your knowledge of God lead to worship of God!

FBC Jackson
Wednesday Night Teaching
1 Timothy 6:17-21: A Final Exhortation to the Rich

Overview of 1 Timothy

(Question): What are the two main themes of 1 Timothy?

1 Timothy 1:3: “*...charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine...*”

1 Timothy 3:14-15: “*I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.*”

The church should be focused on two things: healthy doctrine and healthy living!

Review: Paul’s Final Words

Paul’s Final Indictment of False Teachers (6:2b-10)

- There’s good sound doctrine
- Doctrine that accords with godliness
- False teachers disagree with it
- False teachers teach contrary to it

(Question): According to Paul, what is one of the main reasons these teachers wandered away from the true faith and began to teach contrary to it?

1 Timothy 6:5: “*...imagine that godliness is a means of gain.*”

Because of this, false teachers stir up controversy, divide the church, and dishonor the Lord.

Paul’s Final Exhortations to Timothy (6:11-16)

- Imperative: Flee evil, especially the love of money
- Imperative: Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness
- Imperative: Fight for the truth
- Imperative: Seize eternal life
- Incentive: God and Christ are our witnesses
- Incentive: Christ’s return is certain
- Doxology

1 Timothy 6:15-16: “*he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.*”

Introduction: A Final Exhortation to the Rich (1 Timothy 6:17-21)

A Word About Riches

- Read aloud
- Hear the repetition

(Question): In the context of 1 Timothy, why was it pastorally prudent for Paul to instruct Timothy on how wealthy Christians are to use their wealth?

1 Timothy 6:9-10: “*9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.*”

Money is amoral, neither inherently good nor evil. It's perfectly acceptable for a Christian to be wealthy. However, wealthy Christians must be aware of the spiritual dangers of wealth and their God-given responsibilities.

1st Point: Hope in God, Not Money (1 Timothy 6:17)

1 Timothy 6:17: [“]¹⁷As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.”

Paul had just given a charge to Timothy; now he wants Timothy to give a charge to wealthy and affluent Christians!

Negatively: “Charge them not to be haughty. . .”

- The Apostle Paul’s underlying assumption:
- Worldly riches often lead to haughtiness, to self-confidence

(Question): How come financial and material prosperity often leads to haughtiness, self-reliance, and self-confidence?

Deuteronomy 8:11-17: [“]¹¹Take care lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, ¹²lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, ¹⁶who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. ¹⁷Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’”

Proverbs 30:7-9: “Two things I ask of you; / deny them not to me before I die: / ⁸Remove far from me falsehood and lying; / give me neither poverty nor riches; / feed me with the food that is needful for me, / ⁹lest I be full and deny you / and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ / or lest I be poor and steal / and profane the name of my God.”

Stott: “Wealth often gives birth to vanity. It tends to make people feel self-important, and so ‘contemptuous of others.’ Wealthy people frequently boast of their house, furniture, car, yacht or other possessions.”

As followers of Christ, we must not let financial and material prosperity allure our hearts into haughtiness and self-confidence. Though we may be outwardly rich, we must maintain a beggarly spirit.

Negatively: Charge them not “to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches. . .”

- The Apostle Paul’s underlying assumption:
- Worldly riches often lead to false hope, a misplacement of our trust

(Question): Why is it foolish and short-sighted to put our hope in financial wealth and material prosperity?

Proverbs 11:4: [“]⁴Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, / but righteousness delivers from death.”

Luke 12:16-21: [“]¹⁶And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’

¹⁸ And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." ' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.'

Proverbs 18:11: "¹¹ A rich man's wealth is his strong city, / and like a high wall in his imagination."

As followers of Christ, we must not hope in our wealth during this brief pilgrimage we're on. Rather, we must remain completely and utterly dependent on the Lord our God!

Positively: Instead, set your hopes "on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy."

(Question): What does this phrase teach us about the paternal care, kindness, and goodness of God?

Acts 14:17: "¹⁷ Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."

As followers of Christ, all that we have is from the benevolent hand of God. We are not to trust in our wealth or possessions. We are to enjoy them as gracious gifts.

2nd Point: Abound in Good Works (1 Timothy 6:18-19)

1 Timothy 6:18-19: "¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."

Positively: "They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share"

- Just as God does good to us
- We're to do good to others
- Just as God richly provides for us
- We're to richly provide for others
- Just as God is generous and ready to share with us
- We're to generously share with others

2 Corinthians 8:9: "⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich."

Stott: "Since God is such a generous giver, his people should be generous too, not only in imitation of his generosity, but also because of the colossal needs of the world around us."

Kostenberger: "Gratitude rather than conceit is the proper response to material blessing from the Lord."

David Platt: "The Biblical antidote to materialism is extravagant giving."

David Platt: "We set our sights on giving, not hoarding; on sacrificing, not indulging."

The wealthier a Christian is, the greater their ability to help others.

Some Incentive: "thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."

(Question): Why is heavenly treasure more valuable than earthly treasure? Why is it a better foundation for the future?

Matthew 6:19-21: “¹⁹Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Luke 12:32-33: “³²“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.”

Randy Alcorn: “God keeps an account open for us in heaven, and every gift given for his glory is a deposit in that account. Not only God, not only others, but we are the eternal beneficiaries of our giving. Have you been making regular deposits.”

(Question): How does sacrificial giving enable us to take hold of that which is truly life?

Yarbrough: “These words can hardly mean, essentially, “so that they may go to heaven when they die.” The reference is not exclusively to “eternal life” as a solely future prospect. Their actions and use of wealth should rather reflect in the present a full measure of awareness of the eternal realities that earthly life, significantly but merely, foreshadows.”

3rd Point: Final Words to Timothy (1 Timothy 6:20-21)

1 Timothy 6:20-21: “²⁰O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,” ²¹for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you.”

The Imperative: “Guard the deposit”

- Guard: Watch Closely; Keep
- “Deposit entrusted to you”
- “That which is committed to thy trust”

Platt: “That which has been entrusted to Timothy was the whole of the Christian faith, at the center of which is the gospel, the good news of Christ’s death and resurrection.”

1 Timothy 1:3: “charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine. . .”

1 Timothy 1:18-19: “that by them you may wage the good warfare, ¹⁹holding faith and a good conscience.”

1 Timothy 3:2: “²Therefore an overseer must be. . .able to teach the word.”

1 Timothy 4:13: “¹³Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

1 Timothy 4:16: “¹⁶Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching.”

1 Timothy 6:12: “¹²Fight the good fight of the faith. . .”

(Question): Why is this so important? What is at stake?

The Imperative: “Avoid irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge”

- Avoid: Turn away; turn
- Irreverent Babble: meaningless talk
- Contradictions to the truth

The charge is strong, very strong: turn away from men and their teachings when they stand against Christ and the teachings of God’s Word.

He Began With Grace, and He Ends With Grace

1 Timothy 1:2: “*Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

1 Timothy 6:21: “*... Grace be with you.*”

We need grace in this fight, this great war for truth and the salvation of souls. And guess what? The grace of God is with us at the beginning and at the end. And if God is for us, who can be against us?

Martin Luther: “Did we in our own strength confide, / our striving would be losing; Were not the right Man on our side, / the Man of God’s own choosing: / Dost ask who that may be? / Christ Jesus, it is He; Lord Sabbaoth, His name, / from age to age the same, / And he must win the battle.”

Conclusion

This concludes our study on 1 Timothy!

Applications

(Question): God has graciously given us 1 Timothy. Now that we’ve studied this book, why is it important for the church?

Kostenberger: “Paul’s Letter to Timothy makes a unique contribution to the NT canon by highlighting the importance of the purity of the church as overseen by properly constituted and authorized leadership.”

(Question): What are some ways 1 Timothy has challenged you? What are some things you learned that you previously weren’t aware of?