

WHEN EVERYTHING *ISN'T* GOING MY WAY...

1 TIMOTHY 1

Oklahoma: “Oh What a Beautiful Morning . . .

everything's going my way!

But what about when everything *ISN'T* going my way?

In words of another OK tune: “What'cha gonna do” then?

Paul writes to Timothy when everything *ISN'T* going his way,
to encourage him to hang in there, cling to the truth,
and lead God's people in HIS ways.

BACKGROUND

Paul chooses Timothy to accompany him on 2nd journey.

By time of letter, Timothy is respected leader,
left in hard situations to represent Paul.

Paul leaves him in Ephesus, while he travels to Macedonia.

Timothy's mission is provoked by presence of false teachers.

Due to his youth, discouragement, and perhaps illness, Timothy
hesitates to face responsibilities of ministry.

We might want to pull out this letter . . .

. . . when we're not feeling up to the challenge.

. . . when *WE* feel like throwing in the towel.

. . . when life or ministry isn't all it's cracked up to be!

PURPOSE AND THEME

Paul writes a guide for Timothy's ministry at Ephesus.

He instructs Timothy concerning his ministry.

It provides good counsel for the church today too
—how should *WE* carry out *OUR* ministry?

When the world and modern culture try to tell us
how we should “DO church,”

it's important for us to hear what *God* has to say about
how *HE* wants His church to function.

“When all else fails, read the instructions!”

To encourage Timothy to use authority wisely.

To instruct him concerning practical church life.

Principles Timothy ought to teach in the church—us too!

It's NOT intended to be

a complete manual for church government.

Theme: GUARD what's been ENTRUSTED to you!

Commission, Message, Church, Spiritual gifts, etc.

HOLD FAST to the faithful Word you have received.

Letter's divided in 3 sections:

**1st–Reminder of commission Timothy was given to
correct people teaching false doctrine 1**

GREETING 1:1-2

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

Paul establishes his authority—given by God.

An apostle is a “sent one”—like we use “missionary”

Apostles had authority given by God, as His delegates, sent to carry out His work.

Paul passes authority God has given him to his son.

Paul introduces hint of what he'll tell us later in chapter 1:

Our hope isn't in our ability to live by law.

Jesus is our hope. We have hope because we're in Him!

1:2a Recipient: *“To Timothy my true son in the faith”*

Timothy—establishes father/son relationship.

Paul has a natural right to counsel his son.

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

Greeting often focuses on God's grace and peace.

Here, Paul includes thought from ch. 1:

He focuses our attention on God's mercy.

We come to God, NOT based on law.

We come to God, because of His mercy.

COMMISSION GIVEN TO TIMOTHY 1:3-20

Reminder of reason Paul left Timothy in Ephesus.

Most of book deals with how church functions practically,

Paul begins by telling us why he sent Timothy.

He's to deal with issue Paul confronts repeatedly:

legalistic teaching about works–

“we must be good enough to *earn* our way to God.”

Timothy's commission:

to correct people who teach false doctrine.

OCCASION FOR THE COMMISSION 1:3-17

TEACHING OF FALSE DOCTRINE 1:3-4

“As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer ⁴ nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work—which is by faith.”

“I urged you to give strict orders to certain people ...

... to STOP teaching a different doctrine.”

They shouldn't be allowed to teach

their false doctrine in the church.

“...to STOP focusing on myths and unending genealogical studies which lead to useless debates.

rather than focusing on **what God is doing**,

which is **based on faith—based on trusting Christ.**”

They shouldn’t be going on and on, focusing on -
myths, genealogies & controversial topics.

Some focus on old wives tales—on human traditions.

Some focus on whether you come from the right family.

Legalists can take *any* Bible story and turn it into an allegory
to make any point they want to focus on.

Knute Larson: “Rip a verse out of context, read between the lines
and, presto, you have whatever you like.”

Instead of focusing on God and His Word,
they’re into fanciful ideas and human traditions.

While they’re focusing on all kinds of debatable themes, the
central premise they develop is still legalism:

**You must keep the law—live by the rules—
if you want to belong to God’s family.**

If that’s the prerequisite, **PAUL** would never make it!

We should focus on God’s work

—what GOD is doing

***We should focus on our need to TRUST GOD
to do His work in us!***

GOAL OF SOUND DOCTRINE 1:5

*“The goal of this command is love, which comes from
a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”*

The goal of this command is . . .

. . . *not to dominate them,*

. . . *not to prove his superiority to them.*

The purpose is to correct in love.

Love from pure heart, clear conscience, sincere faith.
 Love grounded in truth.
 Loves them too much to leave them as they are!
 Ultimately, **correction based on love is given so that,**
People will walk in truth
and become all that God wants us to be.

When God's people wander away from a pure heart, clear conscience, and sincere faith,
they wander into all kinds of false teaching!

Old friend used to warn us: "The heart always wanders off, before our doctrinal affirmations; but when the heart wanders, our doctrine will follow!"

In Acts 20, Paul warned Ephesian elders this would happen to them. Now his prophecy is being fulfilled.

MISINFORMED TEACHERS OF THE LAW 1:6-11

Their ignorance concerning the law 1:6-7 *"Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk.⁷ They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm."*

Those teaching false doctrine are ignorant.

They wandered off—took a detour to empty words.

They want to be teachers of the law.

They don't know what they're talking about!

They think they're teaching the law.

They don't realize **they don't understand the law.**

The proper use of the law 1:8-11

The problem isn't with the law!

**The law is good when it's used
for the right ["lawful"] purpose. 1:8**

"We know that the law is good if one uses it properly."

If you use it lawfully—the way law's intended to be used.

But, legalists *ALWAYS* get it wrong!

The purpose of law is

... not to justify good people,

... but to condemn bad people. 1:9-11

"We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers,¹⁰ for adult-rers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine¹¹ that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me."

When law does it's work, we realize how bad off we are.

Law demonstrates we're capable of worst kind of sin and rebellion against God, His truth and His ways.

Law makes us desperate for God's grace—His mercy.

Law makes us desperate for Christ's finished work.

EXAMPLE OF THEIR IGNORANCE 1:12-17

How does Paul know so much about their ignorance?

He's a perfect example of the problem!

Paul's former ignorance concerning the law 12-13

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.¹³ Even though I was once a blasphemer, a persecutor, a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.

Paul understands false teachers; *he's been there!* He used to promote their view!

**Thinking he was "serving" the law,
he persecuted the church and denied Jesus.**

He was ignorant of the law and unbelieving.

He acted in **ignorance** and **unbelief**.

Therefore, he found MERCY!

God gave Him power to be different.

He didn't become good enough! God changed His life.

God *considered* him different.

It's God's doing—His work, by faith.

God's grace revealed in him 14-17 14-16 *The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.*

In spite of his opposition to God's plan,...

...God corrected him and made him into an example of what His grace can do.

...Jesus empowered him, considering him trustworthy, and placed him in service.

He's "exhibit A" of what God's mercy can do.

God took such a person and changed his life!

If God would save HIM, he can save ANYONE!

There's hope for US! –however sinful we may be –what-ever background we come from!

God receives glory. **God deserves praise!**

=> 17 *Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION 1:18-20

THAT HE MIGHT FIGHT WELL 1:18-19a

Because of the change God produced in his own life,
Paul instructs Timothy to **fight well** to convince false teachers in Ephesus concerning the truth,
clinging to his own faith and good conscience.

Desire: see young man **fight well**, so he **finishes well**.

Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight,¹⁹ holding on to faith and a good conscience.

THAT HE MIGHT AVOID SHIPWRECK 1:19b-20

Whoever rejects the elements (faith and good conscience) is in danger of shipwreck. He'll suffer consequences.

Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. 20 Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

They turned away from the truth.

They've put away a good conscience.

They're no longer living by faith.

They aren't seeking to please God. **They're shipwrecked.**

Paul has cut them off from fellowship with God's people,
and sent them out into the world;

Satan's forces work them over.

Not a pleasant place to be!

His desire is to see Timothy avoid their path

–to **finish well** as a faithful servant.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE:

Understanding the truth of the Gospel:

God saves unworthy people who trust Christ.

*** Leads to eternal life.**

*** Leads to godly living.**

Are you trusting Christ, or your own works?

Are you still thinking, “I’m not as bad as _____?”

How about Paul? Are you as bad as Paul?

He says he was condemned, without Christ, without hope?

Are you still thinking you can make it on your own?

Are you sure that you have received eternal life?

Are you trusting Christ?

“He who has the Son, has life.”

“He who doesn’t have Son of God, doesn’t have life!”

Do you have life? Are you **trusting Him?**

Are you walking by faith,

with pure heart, clear conscience, sincere faith?

Is our life **a living demonstration of God’s grace?**