

Teacher Class Plan

I Timothy: Lesson #54 -- The Goal of Our Instruction For Wednesday, Nov. 19th

Read I Tim. 1:1-20 (a simplified explanation of the text is supplied at the end of these notes).

Memory Verse: I Tim. 1:8 “But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully.”

Today we are starting to study I Timothy. Paul wrote two different letters to Timothy. *Your large letter on the bulletin board should have those the new information. Point to this and remind them that most of the New Testament was written in the form of letters.* Most of the time Paul wrote to churches, but now Paul writes two letters to Timothy and one to Titus. These were two men who worked with Paul in preaching the Word of God.

Paul Writes to Timothy

- Timothy was from the town of Lystra (Acts 16:1-3). Growing up, Timothy had been well taught in the Scriptures by his mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14-15). *Emphasize how important it was for Timothy to learn God’s Word when he was young and how important it is for them to learn it right now.*
- Paul went through Lystra on his first preaching journey and it is likely that he met and perhaps converted Timothy. On Paul's second journey, Timothy was chosen by Paul to go with him (Acts 16:1-3). Paul calls Timothy “my true child in the faith” and it’s clear that Timothy became like a son to him.

Some at Ephesus Weren’t Teaching God’s Word

- Paul and Timothy had worked together in Ephesus to help the church grow. As Paul went on to the area called Macedonia, he asked Timothy to stay in Ephesus. *If you have a class map, it would be good to show where these towns are.*
- Paul told Timothy that there were some in the church at Ephesus teaching things that were not in God’s Word.
- They were teaching fables or myths. These were usually stories that told a lesson with unreal things and events, things that didn’t really happen. Some of these myths may have been about Old Testament characters telling things about them the Bible didn’t tell. The point Paul is making is that God’s Word is not a myth, it is true and we have to stay with it in our teaching.
- These people at Ephesus were also constantly discussing records from ancient times about the family records of Israel (these are called “genealogies”) -- who was from Judah’s tribe and who was from Asher’s tribe, and so on. Some of those records are in the Bible and some aren’t, but talking about that all the time isn’t going to help people be good Christians. Again, they needed to be talking God’s Word and what they should do to please God.
- Paul said that the kind of teaching that these people were doing was only going to lead to arguments and was really worthless.

- It's sad, but sometimes people in various churches claim to teach the Bible, but they add all kind of things the Bible never taught. They think they are great teachers, but they really don't know what they are talking about.
- Paul said that some people had wrecked their faith by believing and teaching things the Bible did not teach. Paul sure didn't want that to happen to Timothy. He wanted him to hold tight to his faith in God and God's Word.

The Right Way to Use God's Law

- Paul says, "We know that the Law is good, but it has to be used lawfully." There is a right way and a wrong way to teach the Word of God. You have to be careful to explain the Bible the right way. By the way, that's our **memory verse**. *Hold up the memory verse card and work with them to try to be able to say it. If you have time its also always good to review Sunday's memory verse.*
- Paul tells us that God primarily gave His laws to help people see that they were guilty of sin. God's law shows His anger against sinful things some people do:
 - Those who don't believe in God's laws.
 - Those who don't respect God.
 - Those who would murder.
 - Immoral people.
 - Liars.
 - Kidnappers.
 - Anything people do that against proper teaching in God's Word.

Paul Explains the Goal of His Teaching

- When men like Paul and Timothy taught, their goal was not to bring up men's ideas. They were teaching God's Word. They wanted to produce three things in people's lives:
 - **Love from pure heart.** People who were truly loved the Lord with all their hearts, and loved each other.
 - **A good conscience.** Making sure that they did not go against what they knew was right.
 - **And a sincere faith.** A true dedication to God that didn't just act nice on Sunday and then did bad things the rest of the week. They wanted these Christians to not be hypocrites.
- We don't have Bible classes and preaching just to talk. We are trying to learn God's Word to change our lives and make us people that please God so that we can go to heaven.

Paul Admits He Was Once a Terrible Sinner

- Paul uses himself as an example of how God can change someone's life. He said that the Lord had been very patient with him allowing him time to learn the truth. Paul had once persecuted the church and tried to harm it. He says he was number 1 among all sinners.
- But the Lord Jesus forgave Paul of all his wrongs. He became an apostle and severed God faithfully.
- He became an example that no one was too bad for Jesus to save.

Bible Quiz: Review the Bible Quiz questions with your class. Help them to get ready to answer questions when they get to the auditorium.

Simplified Explanation of the Text

Paul Writes a Letter to Timothy

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

2 Unto Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

Tell Those at Ephesus Not to Teach Anything But God's Word

3-4 When I journeyed on to Macedonia, I encouraged you to continue on working in Ephesus so that you could command certain ones to teach no other doctrine. You were to also command that they pay any attention to myths and endless genealogies because such discussions only lead to argumentative questions rather than godly teaching in faith that builds people up.

5 Now the goal we want to achieve in giving that command is love from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith.

6 But some have missed that goal because their teaching has gone off into talk that is meaningless and has nothing to it.

7 They want to be teachers of the Law, they confidently and strongly claim that what they teach is true, but they don't even understand what they are teaching.

8 And we know that the Law is good, but it has to be used lawfully.

The Law's Purpose Was to Show Sinful Conduct

9 We understand this, that the Law was not laid down for righteous people, but for those who act as if there is no law and for those who don't subject themselves to God's law. It's for the people who have no reverence for God. The Law is for sinners. It's for those who don't strive to be holy and for those who have no respect for what is sacred. It's for the type of people who would murder their fathers and mothers, and for murderers in general.

10-11 The Law was laid down for people like the sexually immoral, for those who are sexually immoral with the same gender, for those who would steal men and enslave them, for liars, for people that testify to false things, and for anything that goes against healthy teaching (The kind of healthy teaching that goes with the glorious gospel of the blessed God – the gospel I have been entrusted with.)

Paul Was an Example of Jesus' Power to Save

12-13 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who strengthened me. He counted me faithful putting me into service even though I was a blasphemer, even though I persecuted Christians, even though I did shameful things to others. But the Lord had mercy on me because I did it out of ignorance and in unbelief.

14 The grace the Lord showed was overflowing with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

15 Here is a faithful saying that is worthy of everyone excepting it: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and I'm the number one sinner.

16 But this was the reason I obtained mercy so that as the "number one sinner" Jesus Christ could demonstrate His patience toward me as an example to those who would believe on Him for everlasting life.

17 Now to the King let there be glory and honor, for He is eternal, immortal and who cannot be seen – the only wise God. Amen.

Timothy Should Keep Standing up for the Faith

18 I'm setting this command before you, Timothy, my son, in keeping with the prophecies that have already been spoken about you: Enter into the battle and do a noble job fighting in it.

19 Hold on to your faith and keep a good conscience. Some who threw away a good conscience ended up having a shipwrecked faith.

20 This is true of Hymenaeus and Alexander, men I have given over to Satan so that they will learn not to blaspheme.