

## A Pastor's Job Description

1 Timothy 1:1-20

# TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



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**Talk** together about the glory of God's kingdom. —*Psalm 145:11*  
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —*Joshua 22:5*

## Questions for Reflection or Discussion

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you? ...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- Ephesus was proud of their Temple of Artemis (one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World). What does American culture glorify? Do **you** worship at any of those "temples"?
- We often **unrealistically** expect pastors to be "Super Man"—yet **biblically** they must be exemplary (Hebrews 13:7). What's the balance? What happens to churches when we don't find that balance?
- Timothy had "*three strikes against him*"—young, timid, and sickly—yet he was **anything but "out"**! Read Philippians 2:19-22. How do we reconcile Timothy's deficits with Paul's estimation of him?

How do we learn to follow flawed leaders—especially if we happen to be strong where they're weak?

- Read 1 Timothy 1:3-7. "Certain men" were teaching novel doctrines that appeared quite intellectual and informed: "genealogies", "speculations", "discussions", "confident assertions". In contrast, Timothy and Paul had a message about purity of heart, clean consciences, and sincere faith. **Booring!** Why do you think new ideas interest us more than doctrines that have stood the test of time?

Read **2** Timothy 4:1-5. What do v. 3-4 say is the **cause** of this problem?

What do v. 1-2 and 5 say is the **solution** to this problem?

## Application-Challenge

How do you think TCC is doing in these two areas?

- If you have not received the grace of God in Christ, do so today. Admit your sin and ask God to forgive you as you place your trust in Him.
- If you are a Christian, thank God regularly for his faithfulness, love, mercy—and for looking beyond your faults.
- In the next several days, meet with a friend and sharing your testimony of God's goodness.
- If you are married, share your testimony with your spouse.

# Sermon Summary

Many years ago, around AD 62-63, the Apostle Paul penned two letters to a young pastor named Timothy, in which he outlined what God expected of him as a leader and shepherd of the first century church of Ephesus (1st and 2nd Timothy). In 1 Timothy, Paul's concerns seem to be two-fold: He is worried about the conduct of the church, as well as its leaders. Paul recognizes that the spiritual health of a given local church will rarely rise above the spiritual health of its leaders. Thus, he challenges Timothy to be a godly role model for his flock.

From 1 Timothy 1-4, we get the impression that Pastor Timothy was ready to move on and find a new place to minister. Ministry at Ephesus was difficult. While there was a large colony of Jews in Ephesus, it was a pagan city, which resented Christianity's growing influence. Christians were mocked for their faith and Biblical values. Paul knew Timothy needed to be encouraged if he was to stand up under this kind of societal pressure. But the problems Timothy faced weren't just out there in the world, they were also inside the church, as false teachers had infiltrated the church and were confusing many. Paul writes Timothy urging him to maintain sound doctrine while refuting false doctrine.

The danger of false teaching still plagues the church. We live in a pluralistic culture, where people from various ethnic, ideological, and religious backgrounds live together. In fact, pluralism has become an ideology unto itself. It has become the "politically correct way to think." And that is where, as Christians, we should have a problem. Ideological pluralism argues that every religion is a culturally-conditioned phenomenon, and frowns upon any attempt to convert people to a particular way of thinking. One of the chief tenants of ideological pluralism is that there is no such thing as objective truth, let alone universal and eternal truth. In such a society, "tolerance" becomes the highest virtue. Today, we tolerate virtually any kind of absurd thinking except the intolerance of those who insist that certain ideas are true and others are false, and that certain practices are good and others are evil. Our society is intolerant of that! You cannot be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ and embrace this kind of comprehensive subjectivism, because Jesus claimed to be the truth and to bear witness to the truth. Furthermore, he claimed that this objective truth sets us free. Church, truth matters...specifically, the truth which God has revealed through Christ and by his Spirit. Both Jesus and the Apostles warned us to beware false teachers who would pervert God's revealed truth.

Paul goes on to contrast this false, divisive, speculative teaching with the goal of Biblical instruction (1 Timothy 5). Let's face it. There are a lot of things that our society proclaims as good that the Bible condemns as wrong, sinful, evil, and unhealthy. False teachers ignore those things, and tell their audience what they want to hear. We don't do that here at TCC. If that is what you are looking for, you are in the wrong church. We practice exegesis, where we uncover and explain what is clearly in the Biblical text—whether it makes us feel good or not. My goal as your pastor is to lovingly and faithfully represent the Biblical text, not to expand my popularity.


Beginning at verse 12, Paul turns his attention away from false teachers, and writes about himself and the gospel which has been entrusted to him by God. He retells the story of his conversion and commissioning, and as he does so, he breaks out in praise and thanksgiving. Not only did God forgive him, He commissioned Paul to be an Apostle (1 Timothy 12-17). From these verses, we clearly see that God's grace is greater than our sin. If you are thinking "God could never forgive me for what I have done," you are wrong. If God forgave Paul, he will forgive you. Come to him, admit your sin, and ask him to forgive you. And when you receive his forgiveness, you too will have reason to break out in praise!

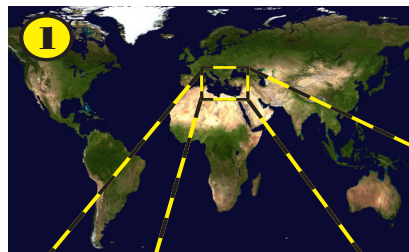
Paul concludes this section of the letter with a challenge (1 Timothy 18-20). He urges Timothy to use his pastoral authority to silence the destructive false teachers and to affirm the true gospel, without allowing a different gospel to take root. Timothy had to choose sides, and when it comes to defending the Biblical truth, so must we.

We are engaged a great spiritual battle, and in that battle, there will be casualties. Some will abandon the faith because they desire the favor of men more than the favor of God. How about you? As our culture and Biblical Christianity continue to diverge, which path will you take? Will you continue to defend Biblical truth, or will you become a casualty of our culture's war on truth? Let's join Timothy and remain at our post here at Triangle Community Church. Let's love people enough to tell them the truth.



# Paul's First Letter to Timothy

So, who was Timothy—and what can we learn from him? Let's begin by getting an overview. It all happened in the Mediterranean area—see Maps # 1 & 2. Timothy was probably from the town of Lystra (located at the  on map # 3). Paul probably met him on his first missionary journey, and led him to faith in Christ (read Acts 14 & 1 Timothy 1:2). He became Paul's partner in ministry, and his most loyal companion (read Acts 16:1-3; Romans 16:21; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10-11; Philippians 2:19-22; Thessalonians 3:1-3). Map # 3 shows the routes Paul and Timothy took on multiple trips, spreading the gospel. A few key cities are noted. Timothy likely was imprisoned with Paul in Rome (Philippians 2:19-20). And that's where the Book of Acts ends—and with it, the concrete data on Paul. What happened next? It appears that they were released and ministered together again in Philippi (see Philippians 1:1, 26; 2:19, 24). Later it appears that Paul and Timothy ministered in Ephesus—which is where Timothy was when Paul wrote him this letter (Paul was in a region called "Macedonia" at the time—see Map # 4).

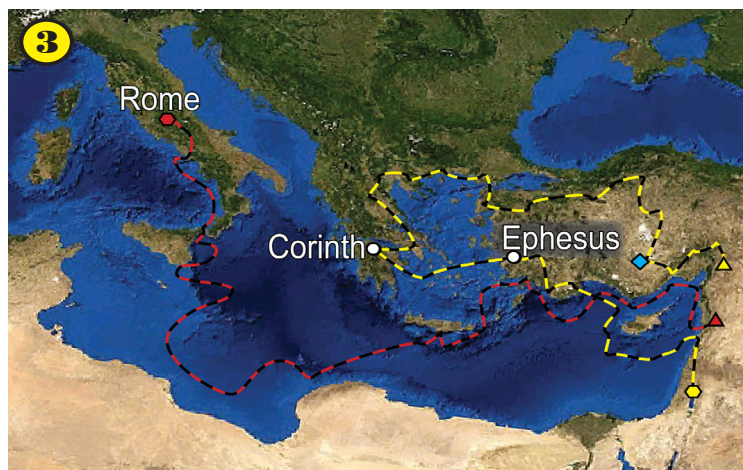


Each day this week read 1 Timothy Chapter 1—it takes less than 3 minutes—and observe everything you can about Paul, Timothy, and Apostolic Doctrine. What false teachers have you heard on the TV, radio, or internet? How does their teaching differ from the sound Apostolic Doctrine you get at TCC? What do you learn about Paul and his gospel, as compared to a misuse of God's Law (1:3-11)? What did that gospel do in Paul's life (1:12-16)? What does Paul command and warn Timothy about (1:18-20)? Does God have his rightful place in your daily life (1:17)?



As you continue reading 1 Timothy Chapter 1, mark the following key words:

- "faith/faithful" (in v. 2, 4, 5, 12, 14, & 19 {2x}). In v. 11 mark the word "entrusted", in v. 15 mark the word "trustworthy", and in v. 16 mark the word "believe"—these all are the same Greek word (in the noun, verb, and adjectival forms)! Make a list of all the things you learn about this important word. With what is faith compared? With what is it contrasted?
- In v. 3 & 5 mark the word "instruct/instruction". In v. 18 mark the word "command"—it's the same Greek word! What role does instruction play in the Christian life? Who instructs? Who receives instruction?
- Mark the word "grace" in v. 2 & 14. Also mark the word "thank" in v. 12. Guess why? Yup—it's the same Greek word! Interesting, isn't it? How does your Bible translate v.12? What do you learn about grace?
- In v. 5, 8, 18 & 19 mark the word "good". List the things that "good" modifies. List the other things that are associated with these good items. Both v. 5 & 19 speak of a "good conscience". Do you have one?



1 Timothy					
Apostolic Doctrine 1:1-20	Public Worship 2:1-15	Pastoral Oversight 3:1-16	Local Leadership 4:1—5:2	Social Responsibilities 5:3—6:2	Material Possessions 6:3-21
Problem of False Doctrine	Global Concerns and Gender Roles	Qualifications for Leaders	False vs. True Teaching	A Charge Concerning our Responsibilities to:	A Charge Concerning Possessions, to:
False Teachers and the Law	Prayer	Elders	Identify False Teaching	Widows	False Teachers
Paul and his Gospel	Global Outreach	Deacons	Affirm True Teaching	Elders	The Poor
Timothy and the "Good Fight"	Gender Issues	The Church		Slaves	The Godly
					The Rich
					Timothy