

QUICKNOTES on firstTimothy

Introduction

written by PAUL the apostle to TIMOTHY the pastor

More than a decade prior to writing this letter, Paul had first met Timothy in the city of Lystra—in Asia Minor—where Timothy was known as a "Momzer" - someone with questionable heritage who was not allowed in the temple.

Nevertheless, Paul saw that HE BELIEVED and LOVED scripture. Because of this Paul POURED himself into Timothy.

1 Tim 1:2 "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope; Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith..."

GOAL as a leader is not to hire people who need a job. It's not to RECRUIT PEOPLE because you need bodies in an auxiliary... YOU RECRUIT people who believe what you believe.

the world needs fathers to guard against false teachers

Paul, the "father in the faith" of Timothy begins his instruction telling Timothy that there are a lot of false, fake and disingenuous teachers in the body of Christ and that it was Timothy's job to care for the body by following Paul's example and teaching them through LOVE.

1 Tim 1:5 "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned"

PURE HEART - genuinely desires to share the truth for the benefit of the student **GOOD CONSCIENCE** - serve God, share knowledge, grow the Kingdom. **FAITH UNFEIGNED** - Sincere faith refers to being AUTHENTIC and GENUINE.

Teachers that lack sincerity of faith are either unbelievers or they are believers working in their flesh, absent of GOD GIVEN INSIGHT AND POWER.

1 Tim. 1:6 - 7" From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm."

Vain jangling is connected with 1 Corinthians 13 where we are told that if we say wise things without love we are just an annoying sound.

Leaders are selfless and thankful

Paul ends chapter 1 talking about a shipwreck of faith and begins chapter 2 explaining how Timothy, as a leader, can help others navigate around having such shipwreck faith. We must show that we are living out our faith by the prayers others see us pray.

1 Tim 2:8 "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."

Where?- Not just in church, everywhere. At home, at work etc.
How? - Lifting up hands. Act of surrender. "I am willing to be changed/used"
Conditions- without "wrath or doubting" in greek literally means "loud, angry dialogue" - men were getting into verbal arguments during church services and the women were trying to outdo each other in how they were dressed.

Leaders are not to be self-driven Leaders are not to focus on self-promotion

Christians need to be focused on worshipping God Loving one another Promoting Kingdom at all times.

How to choose a leader...

Paul knew that Timothy would need to choose leaders if the church was to succeed because it cannot be done by one person. Paul didn't want Timothy to choose the wrong people so he gave him simple instructions about the quality of the leaders Timothy should choose.

1 Tim 3:8-10 - "Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience

Grave- Being serious about what they are asked to do.
 Not Doubletongued - speaking faith, not doubt, not lying or half-truths.
 Not given to much wine- Not looking for other things to replace God.
 Not greedy - Not living for the purpose of gaining money.
 Mystery of Faith - willing to speak faith/believe before you understand.

1 Tim 3:12 - "husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well"

Ruling- "pre-standing" - being the example of faith that their family follows.

When choosing a leader, think
1) Does anyone currently follow them?
2) If they do, do I want others to become like this leader?

Pay attention to the Signs of the Times

Paul prophesies about times to come that leaders must prepare their followers for. Times when real Christianity would not be acceptable.

1 Tim 4:1 - "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;"

"Depart from the faith" - take steps away from being "in the church".

"Seducing spirits" - Deception is when an outside force tricks you or fools you into thinking you are right. Seduction is when an outside force CONVINCES you to do something YOU KNOW is wrong...

Doctrines of devils - THE PROPAGATION OF LIES WILL CAUSE PEOPLE TO MOVE AWAY FROM WHAT THEY PREVIOUSLY SAID THEY BELIEVED IN the Bible to what is popular opinion.

Ruling- "pre-standing" - being the example of faith that their family follows.

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A "FAITHFUL SAYING"

PAUL GIVES SEVERAL "FAITHFUL SAYINGS" IN HIS EPISTLES WHICH WERE SAYINGS THE CHURCH WAS TO REPEAT AND MEMORIZE

1 TIM. 4:8 - "bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things."

POINT: make it a practice to work out your faith MORE than your body-

- PRAY
- SERVE
- GIVE
- READ
- SPEAK

LEADERS DISPLAY THEIR CARE FOR OTHERS

Paul talks about ways to honor and love one another as the church. He explains that leaders are to lead the charge in how we display this.

1 Tim 5:21 - "I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality."

Treat each other like family - Paul describes the local church in family terms.

Take care of widows - Widows, who are "widows indeed" are supposed to be cared for and looked after by the church.

Require family to honor and care for their own - A part of Timothy's purpose was to encourage family to do their part in taking care of their own and being an example to the world.

Make sure Pastors are blessed - worthy of "double honor". Pastors are to accept it as a display of honor and care for the rest of the body and the world.

Take care of your own body - Timothy was dealing with ulcers because of worry and stress and Paul explained that "self-care" is also important.

The Final Orders

Paul sums up his letter explaining the life Timothy is supposed to display to those he is leading. In one simplistic verse it is summed up:

1 Tim 4:6 "But godliness with contentment is great gain."
1 Tim 4:11 "... follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness."

"Righteousness" - God's way of doing things, not what will make me happy.

"Godliness" - How can I be more like God today?

"Faith" - trust in the Lord. In who He is and who WE ARE because of Him

"Love" - Love conquers all fear. Love never fails. Love covers a multitude of sins. If our focus is always striving to walk in love then our life will be full of contentment.

"Patience" - CONTENTMENT must be in HIM, not in the ANSWERS He brings.

"Meekness" - Meekness because we realize it's not all on our shoulders. Meekness because we know that God has a hand in a plan in our lives.

How do I apply this?

As a leader we are called to:

- Demonstrate leadership though our love and commitment
 - Develop leaders through support and accountability.
 - Decide to focus on Kingdom first.