

Small Group Notes

Sermon: 5 May 2024

Notes by Martin Segal



SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 1

OVERVIEW

The book of 1 Timothy was written by the apostle Paul in the mid-AD 60s to Timothy. Timothy was being sent by Paul to help the Church in Ephesus who were facing some challenges due to false teaching that had influenced the Church.

In the first chapter, we saw how Paul commissioned Timothy for the work in Ephesus by contrasting the genuine gospel & leadership with the counterfeit gospel & leadership.

Gospel

We saw throughout chapter 1 that Paul charged Timothy to be alert to the counterfeit gospel ('different doctrine" v3). We explored two ways that Paul highlights how we can spot the counterfeit gospel.

1. Speculation (Adding to the truth)

Paul highlights the issues going on in Ephesus that were related to myths (v4) which led to vain discussions (v6) and confident assertions without understanding (v7)

2. Distraction (Drawing away from foundation)

Paul also showed how the counterfeit gospel will lead to the church being distracted and beginning to see the secondary becoming primary. For the church in Ephesus, that had led to them focusing on endless genealogies (v4) and law enforcement(v8).

These dangers still exist for us today, and we have a responsibility to be alert to the counterfeit gospel at work in our age.

We also saw how we are called to embrace the genuine gospel, and Paul shows us that can be spotted by:

1. Stewardship (God given)

The genuine gospel is not humanity's good idea but comes from God himself. And Paul highlights how we must steward the true gospel.

- It comes from God by faith (v4)
- It proclaims the reality of sin (v9)
- It declares salvation by grace (v15)
- It tells of the hope of eternal life (v16)

2. Health (Produces fruit)

The genuine gospel brings transformation in our lives.

- It leads to a life that honours God (v10)
- It leads to a correct view of God (v11)
- It leads to a correct view of ourselves (v14)

- It leads to worship (v17)

Leadership

Paul also contrasts counterfeit and genuine leadership.

Counterfeit = Wandering (Drifting away from the gospel)

Paul shows how leaders who have embraced the counterfeit gospel can be spotted:

- Character drift (v6)
- Desire drift (v7)
- Love sin and passionately pursue it (v19)
- Speaking & living blasphemy (v20)

Genuine = Steadfast (Consistent through all things)

He also showed the signs of genuine leadership in the church

- Steadfast in calling (v1)
- Steadfast in purpose (v12)
- Steadfast in grace (v13)
- Steadfast in faith (v18)

QUESTIONS

1. Why do we think it is important to be alert to the counterfeit in our lives?
2. What aspect of the genuine gospel do you find hardest to believe for yourself or share with others?
3. What aspect of Paul's picture of genuine leadership do you need to grow in?