

I Timothy 1 – 31 December 2023

“Tactical Teaching”

Introduction

Read Vs 1

1. Acts records Paul’s 3 Trips & imprisonment in Rome circa 63 AD
 - a. From this & his 2nd (final) imprisonment, little is known other than he wrote the Pastorals
2. Notice, in writing of ‘how to shepherd sheep’, Paul takes the title of Apostle b/c God told him to
 - a. Otherwise often uses prisoner or servant
3. Paul is describing ONE great God here
 - a. He’s Savior, Lord, Messiah & our hope
 - b. And He has a name...Jesus

Read Vs 2

1. Timothy was closely involved w/ Paul starting w/ the 2nd Missionary Trip as we read in Acts 16
2. Timothy was in charge of the work at Ephesus
3. Notice from vs 2, Paul considered him a son
 - a. Need to have others we’re pouring into

4. Paul adds to his typical greeting a note of mercy – Young men need to remember mercy

For those of you that enjoy outlines

1. Timothy's 6 chapters is outlined as TILDAS
 - a. Teaching, Intimacy, Leaders, Dangers, Aged, and Suspicions
 - b. 'Tilda' is French word from ancient Germanic for '*mighty in battle*' or '*mighty in strength*'
 - i. Key verse of the book (Read) I Tim 1:18

*So today Paul opens with the importance of solid, simple standing on teaching the Word of God

Today, we'll look at some ways of using true doctrine and simple teaching

#1 – Highly value doctrine over the counterfeits (Vs 3-11)

Read Vs 3

1. Paul asked & entrusted Tim to be his personal rep at Ephesus to ensure only good teaching is given
 - a. Not easy for Tim to stay at Ephesus w/o Paul

- b. This is why Paul called God our Saviour in vs 1, b/c Caesar demanded to be called Savior
2. Paul warned Ephesian Elders before he left of false teachers springing up (Read Acts 20:28-30)

Read Vs 4

1. Doctrine – the substance of what you believe
 - a. Should be incredibly more important to us
 - b. Charge: Don't allow others to spread lies
2. Conversely there were unprovable tales being told w/ no substance nor reason to fight w/ them
 - a. No one can prove things against Jesus, they instead just want to distract you in the flesh
 - b. World is always searching for new things, only to find discontentment and move on
3. Point of good teaching - build you up, (edify) not to leave you w/ more questions than answers

Read Vs 5

1. What we're pouring into each other should be from love for them, w/o ulterior motives
2. Every word should be designed to help them w/ a Godly exchange of truisms from God's Word

Read Vs 6-7

1. There're some that are more interested in being seen as a teacher or leader than giving the truth
 - a. Building themselves up is more important than the goal of building others up in truth
 - b. Peter warned his readers, 'they will seek to make money from you' (II Pet 3:3)

Read Vs 8-11

1. Paul's clear to say problem isn't that these false teachers are wanting to use the OT law
 - a. Problem is they're misunderstanding & misapplying it
2. Law isn't for bring moral Christians a trip
 - a. It's to bring consciousness of our problem, leading us to desire a solution (Jesus)
 - b. It's not for any other contrary hidden message
 - c. Read Rom 3:19-20 – stops at the problem
 - d. Gal 3:24-25 – brought to the solution
3. So have high standards
 - a. We don't have high standards to earn God's favor, we have them b/c we have God's favor

- b. Having standards doesn't make you a legalist, it shows you desire to be close to God's heart
- 4. This list is beliefs that are against God's heart
 - a. Murderers, sexually immoral to include homosexuals, human traffickers & liars
 - b. Each case is taking what doesn't belong to you
- 5. So the Law is the start, then we learn righteousness principles from Jesus
- 6. Vs 11 indicates Paul sees the Gospel as an enclosed item that he cannot change

#2 – Be an example of the principles of grace (Vs 12-17)

Read Vs 12-14

- 1. We're ignorant & in darkness until the glorious light of God's grace comes flooding in
 - a. Turn to Rom 10:1-4 – treat people gently
 - b. Jesus: "Forgive, they know not what they do"
- 2. What pulpit committee would've picked Paul?
 - a. If God can greatly use Paul, He can use you
- 3. God doesn't call the qualified (there are none), He qualifies the called

- a. God's not looking for our abilities, but our availability & faithfulness

Read Vs 15

1. "This is a faithful saying" intends to highlight
2. Jesus didn't come to condemn, came to save
 - a. For sinners that see their problem & need
3. Paul says he's the chief sinner
 - a. He's been Christian for 30 yrs at this point
 - b. Longer we live, the bigger the gap seems between us and our Lord Jesus
 - i. Not b/c our sin has changed but b/c we see it for what it is, in light of seeing Him

Read Vs 16

1. Sinners receive mercy and a new heart to bring glory to God
 - a. So we can be examples of the miraculous change God makes
 - b. So we can be examples of God's patience in waiting for us to repent

Read Vs 17

1. Paul's praise just bubbles up in joy here
 - a. The King: in charge and authority
 - b. Eternal: from forever past, to forever future
 - c. Immortal: of a higher structure than us
 - d. Invisible: Not completely knowable
 - e. Only Wise God: The only all-knowing one
2. If we ever have trouble worshipping God, it's b/c we don't know who He really is!

#3 – Have a plan to live out true faith & doctrine (Vs 18-20)

Read Vs 18-19a

1. War a good warfare, fight good fight of faith
 - a. "War" is Gk word *strategize* – have a plan
 - i. What's your strategy to stay connected to God?
 - b. Chap 6 Paul says 'fight good fight of faith'
 - i. Put in the effort to stay in the true faith
 - c. 'Good warfare' means we can be fighting battles that don't matter

- i. Many people fight against imperfection
 - ii. Many people fight trivial non-sin issues
 - iii. Let's fight THE battle to get the Gospel out
2. 'This command, I lay before you', will you pick it up?

Read Vs 19b-20

1. It's not just ok, but it's good to declare those that in the name of Jesus, live opposed to Jesus
 - a. Read Rom 16:17 – Mark them so others don't stumble, as you would cordon off an explosive
 - b. So we name names not to shame them, but to protect others from their evil blasphemy
2. Why send them out of fellowship of church?
 - a. As in I Cor 5 – so they'll see the destruction the flesh brings even quicker
3. So let's name a name: beware of *Joel Osteen*
 - a. Prosperity Gospel – Violated I Tim 6:6, etc
 - b. Word-Faith Theology, "We have to conceive it on the inside b4 we're ever going to receive it on the outside" – Violated Luke 14:33, etc
 - c. What's Absent? – He rarely ever mentions sin, repentance & Jesus as only way to redemption

4. Hearing Osteen makes you think God's interest is to make poor ones wealthy & sad ones happy, but in reality, God wants to make dead ones live!

Conclusion

So the lifestyle of the Church begins with its teaching and doctrine

1. **Are we highly valuing God's Word over the counterfeits that come and go?**
2. **Is our life a living testimony of the principles of grace in God's Word?**
3. **Do we have a plan to live out true faith in Jesus Christ?**