

BIBLE STUDY



Series: Let the Church Be the Church

Week 1 Title: Truth Is Non-Negotiable

Text: 1 Timothy 1:1–11

Date: Jan 24–25, 2026

WELCOME & PURPOSE - As we begin the series *Let the Church Be the Church*, this study invites us to rediscover what truly matters. In his letter to Timothy, the Apostle Paul reminds the church that its strength does not come from adapting the message to culture, but from faithfully guarding the gospel entrusted to us.

This session will help us understand why truth matters, how false teaching affects the church, and why the gospel shapes both what we believe and how we live.

BACKGROUND

Paul writes *1 Timothy* late in his ministry to Timothy, a young pastor serving in Ephesus. Ephesus was a busy, influential city filled with different religious ideas and moral values. The church there was established, but under pressure to adapt its message to fit the culture. Timothy was more than a pastor to Paul—he was a spiritual son. Paul mentored him, travelled with him, and trusted him with difficult leadership assignments. In this letter, Paul urges Timothy to guard the gospel, confront false teaching, and lead the church faithfully.

1: THE CHURCH IS BUILT ON THE TRUE GOSPEL

Read - 1 Timothy 1:1–2 - “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Key Truth - The gospel does not belong to us to change—it has been entrusted to us to protect and pass on.

Supporting Scriptures - Acts 16:1–3 2 Timothy 1:5 1 Corinthians 15:3

Discuss

1. Why do you think Paul begins by emphasizing both his calling and his relationship with Timothy?

2. What does the phrase “true son in the faith” tell us about the importance of spiritual mentoring?

3. How does remembering where the gospel comes from help the church stay grounded?

Apply

- Thank God for the people who helped shape your faith.
- Ask God to help you grow in both humility and faithfulness as you follow Christ.
- Consider how you might encourage or mentor someone else in their spiritual journey.

2: THE CHURCH MUST CONFRONT FALSE TEACHING

Read - 1 Timothy 1:3–7

Key Truth - False teaching distracts from God’s work and produces confusion instead of love and faith.

Supporting Scriptures 1 Corinthians 15:3 Acts 20:29–31 1 Corinthians 9:24

Illustration

Changing the rules or the baton in a relay race does not help the team win. In the same way, the church cannot fulfill its mission if the gospel is changed.

Discuss

1. Why do you think false teaching often sounds appealing or spiritual?

2. How can false teaching distract the church from its true mission?

3. What does Paul say sound teaching should produce in people’s lives?

Apply

- Ask God to help you recognize truth from error.
- Commit to growing in your understanding of Scripture.
- Pray for your church leaders as they protect and teach God’s Word.

3: THE CHURCH TEACHES AND UPHOLDS GOD’S MORAL TRUTH

Read - 1 Timothy 1:7–11

Key Truth - God’s law reveals our need for grace, and the gospel transforms how we live.

Supporting Scriptures John 8:32 Romans 3:20

Illustration

A GPS that refuses to acknowledge wrong turns cannot lead anyone home. In the same way, ignoring sin prevents true freedom.

Discuss

1. Why is it sometimes difficult to talk about sin and moral truth today?

2. How do grace and truth work together in the gospel?

3. How does what we believe about God influence how we live?

Apply

- Ask God to reveal areas where your beliefs and actions need better alignment.
- Receive God's grace with gratitude and respond with obedience.
- Encourage one another to live out the freedom found in Christ.

WRAP-UP & PRAYER

The church does not exist to mirror culture, but to reflect Christ. God has entrusted His gospel to us—not to edit, but to guard.

Three Responses for the Week

1. **Examine What You Believe** – Let Scripture, not culture, shape your faith.
2. **Commit to Truth in Love** – Speak and live God's truth with grace and compassion.
3. **Live Out the Gospel You Profess** – Allow the gospel to shape your daily choices.

Close your time together by praying that God would help your church remain faithful, courageous, and grounded in truth.