

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 1 TIMOTHY 1 (PART 1)

1 TIMOTHY 1:1-3A - A LETTER FROM PAUL TO TIMOTHY

PAUL IS WRITING THIS LETTER TO TIMOTHY AROUND 62AD, AFTER BEING RELEASED FROM PRISON AND AS HE RETURNS TO THE GOSPEL MISSION FIELD. HE CALLS TIMOTHY HIS "TRUE CHILD IN THE FAITH", A TITLE WHICH APPROPRIATELY EXPLAINS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM WE LOOKED AT LAST TIME. PAUL SENDS "GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE FROM GOD THE FATHER AND CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD (V. 2)." PAUL IS TRAVELING TO MACEDONIA (SEE MAP) AND URGES TIMOTHY TO REMAIN IN EPHEBUS.



THERE ARE SOME SCHOLARS WHO BELIEVE THAT TIMOTHY WAS SERVING AS THE ELDER/PASTOR OF THE EPHESIAN CHURCH AT THIS TIME. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT HE IS COMING TO ASSIST THE EPHESIAN ELDERS THAT ARE IN PLACE ON PAUL'S BEHALF.

PAUL AND TIMOTHY WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE GOSPEL FIRST COMING TO EPHEBUS (ACTS 19). THE EPHESIAN CHURCH WAS NEAR AND DEAR TO PAUL AND THERE ARE MULTIPLE OCCASIONS OF HIM COMMUNICATING WITH THEM, IN ADDITION TO THE LETTER/EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIAN CHURCH. REMEMBER, THIS IS THE FIRST "PASTORAL EPISTLE".

1 TIMOTHY 1:3B-7 - WHY IS TIMOTHY IN EPHEBUS?

PAUL WRITES THAT HE URGED TIMOTHY TO REMAIN IN EPHEBUS WITH A FEW SPECIFIC PURPOSES.

- 1 - INSTRUCT CERTAIN MEN NOT TO TEACH "STRANGE DOCTRINES" (V. 3)
- 2 - INSTRUCT CERTAIN MEN TO NOT PAY ATTENTION TO "MYTHS AND ENDLESS GENEALOGIES" (V. 3)

→ BECAUSE BOTH OF THESE THINGS GIVE "RISE TO MERE SPECULATION RATHER THAN FURTHERING THE ADMINISTRATION OF GOD WHICH IS BY FAITH"

THE RESULT OF THESE STRANGE TEACHINGS IS LEADING TO SPECULATION, WHICH LEADS TO INACTION RATHER THAN FURTHERING THE ADMINISTRATION OF GOD, MEANING THE WORK AND FURTHERANCE OF GOD'S PLANS ARE SLOWED AND STOPPED BECAUSE OF THESE TEACHINGS. THE LETTER IS GOING TO SPEAK FURTHER ABOUT THE RESULT OF THESE STRANGE TEACHINGS BUT TO LEAD OFF PAUL IS CONCERNED BY HOW THEY ARE STOPPING THE REAL AND TRUE WORK OF GOD.

THERE ARE A FEW SPECULATIONS AS TO WHAT THE MYTHS AND ENDLESS GENEALOGIES MIGHT HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN - SOME THINK IT MAY BE EXTRA-BIBLICAL JEWISH STORIES AND WRITINGS WHILE OTHERS SEEM SUGGEST IT MIGHT BE GREEK PHILOSOPHY OR Gnostic IN NATURE. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH PAUL DOESN'T IDENTIFY *WHAT* THE MYTHS ARE, BUT *HOW THEY AFFECT GOD'S PEOPLE*. HE ALSO DOESN'T SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFY WHO THE CERTAIN MEN ARE BUT WHAT THEIR END GOAL IS. AND HE WILL CONTRAST THEIR PURPOSES WITH HIS.

1 TIMOTHY 1:5 - THE GOAL OF PAUL'S INSTRUCTION

THE STRANGE DOCTRINES LEAD TO MERE SPECULATION. THE GOAL OF PAUL/TIMOTHY'S INSTRUCTION IS "LOVE FROM A PURE HEART, A GOOD CONSCIENCE AND A SINCERE FAITH" (V. 5).

LOVE, FROM A PURE HEART
A GOOD CONSCIENCE
SINCERE FAITH

WHAT IS THE END RESULT OF YOUR BIBLE STUDY?

WHAT IS THE END RESULT OF YOUR DOCTRINAL DISTINCTIVES?

WHAT IS THE END RESULT OF YOUR THEOLOGY?

WHAT ARE OTHER END GOALS THAT WE SEE INSTEAD?

DISDAIN FOR PEOPLE WHO DISAGREE
A BAD CONSCIENCE
HYPOCRISY
HARD HEART
PRIDE
OUTWARD EMPHASIS RATHER THAN INWARD TRANSFORMATION WHAT ELSE?

LOVE THAT IS BASED ON THE TRUTH IS IMPORTANT. THE BIBLE DEFINES WHAT LOVE IS/LOOKS LIKE - SO THE END GOAL OF BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE AND THEOLOGY OUGHT TO BE GOD'S LOVE. THE BIBLE IS TRUE AND PURE AND IS MEANT FOR NOT JUST THE HEAD, BUT THE HEART. THE END GOAL OF BIBLICAL TEACHING OUGHT TO BE A PURE, CLEAN, UNSELFISH HEART. FAITH COMES FROM HEARING GOD'S WORD AND SO THE END GOAL OF HEARING GOD'S WORD OUGHT TO BE GENUINE/TRUE/SINCERE FAITH AS OPPOSED TO OUTWARD APPEARANCE THAT LOOKS GOOD BUT IS INSINCERE.

1 TIMOTHY 1:6-7 - PAUL'S OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THOSE WHO HAVE "STRAYED"

"STRAYING" - <795> ἀστοχέω *ASTOCHEO* - MEANING: TO MISS THE MARK

PAUL OBSERVES THAT THOSE WHO ARE TEACHING THE STRANGE DOCTRINES (V. 3) HAVE "STRAYED" FROM THE GOOD AND RIGHT END-GOALS (THOSE THINGS LISTED IN V. 5). INSTEAD THEY HAVE "TURNED ASIDE" TO "FRUITLESS DISCUSSION" (V. 6) AND THEY WANT TO BE "TEACHERS" EVEN THOUGH, PAUL WILL ASSERT) THAT THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY ARE SAYING - EVEN THOUGH THESE SELF PROCLAIMED TEACHERS APPEAR TO TEACH CONFIDENTLY.

THIS GIVES US SOME INDICATION THAT PART OF WHAT WAS BEING TAUGHT IN EPHEBUS WAS RELATING TO THE MOSAIC LAW (MORE ON THIS NEXT TIME). CONSISTENTLY THROUGHOUT THE BOOK OF ACTS WE SEE THAT THERE IS DISCUSSION AND CONTROVERSY REGARDING THE PLACE OF THE MOSAIC LAW IN THE NEW COMMUNITY OF FOLLOWERS OF THE WAY OF JESUS. PAUL WOULD OFTEN CONFRONT PEOPLE WHO WERE TEACHING THAT ONE NEEDED TO KEEP THE LAW TO BE SAVED. HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES:

ROMANS 3:28 - FOR WE MAINTAIN THAT A MAN IS JUSTIFIED BY FAITH APART FROM WORKS OF THE LAW.

GALATIANS 2:16 NLT - YET WE KNOW THAT A PERSON IS MADE RIGHT WITH GOD BY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, NOT BY OBEYING THE LAW. AND WE HAVE BELIEVED IN CHRIST JESUS, SO THAT WE MIGHT BE MADE RIGHT WITH GOD BECAUSE OF OUR FAITH IN CHRIST, NOT BECAUSE WE HAVE OBEYED THE LAW. FOR NO ONE WILL EVER BE MADE RIGHT WITH GOD BY OBEYING THE LAW."

PHILIPPIANS 3:9 - (PAUL DESIRED THAT HE WOULD BE) BE FOUND IN (CHRIST), NOT HAVING A RIGHTEOUSNESS OF MY OWN DERIVED FROM THE LAW, BUT THAT WHICH IS THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST, THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH COMES FROM GOD ON THE BASIS OF FAITH,

AND SO IN A PASTORAL LETTER THAT WILL ADDRESS ISSUES OF THE EPHESIAN CHURCH AND BEYOND, PAUL IS TRYING TO MAKE A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG TEACHING, YES - BUT ALSO GOOD AND BAD RESULTS THAT MAY COME AS A RESULT OF FOLLOWING THAT TEACHING.

HOW DO WE IN THE 21ST CENTURY DISCERN THAT WE ARE EMBRACING TRUTH AND NOT STRAYING TO STRANGE DOCTRINES? A FEW QUICK AND NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST:

1 - IS IT CONFIRMED BY THE SCRIPTURES? THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN HOW IT FEELS, HOW COMPELLING THE PRESENTATION IS, OR WHETHER OR NOT WE "LIKE" WHAT WE HEAR/READ. THIS IS A LIFELONG ADVENTURE AND DISCOVERY.

2 - ARE WE WORKING THESE THINGS OUT IN AND WITH OUR COMMUNITY? (WHICH IS HOW IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE)

3 - WHAT IS THE RESULT OF THE TRUTHS WE'RE BELIEVING AND FOLLOWING AS THEY RELATE TO OUR HEART, THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS? HOW IS IT HELPING ME BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS? AN IMPORTANT QUESTION TO ASK OURSELVES AND OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

LOVE, GOODNESS AND KINDNESS ARE NOT EVIDENCE OF TRUE BIBLICAL TEACHING IN AND OF THEMSELVES, BUT TRUE BIBLICAL TEACHING MUST LEAD TO LOVE, GOODNESS AND KINDNESS.