

# NOON BIBLE STUDY: 1 TIMOTHY 1 (PART 2)

A LOT OF WHAT PAUL IS GOING TO DO IN THIS LETTER IS COMPARE HIS TEACHING AND LIFE AND THE BEHAVIOR AND MESSAGE BEING SPOKEN BY THOSE TEACHING "STRANGE DOCTRINES" (V. 3). PAUL HAS JUST CONTRASTED HIS TEACHING AGAINST THE FALSE TEACHERS WITH A PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON HOW HIS TEACHING FURTHERS GOD'S WORK IN THE WORLD AND PRODUCES "LOVE FROM A PURE HEART AND A GOOD CONSCIENCE AND SINCERE FAITH" (1:5). ON THE OTHER HAND THE FALSE TEACHERS SHIFT GOD'S PEOPLE INTO NEUTRAL AND THEN LEAVE THEM SPECULATING AND SPUTTERING ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, OFF TRACK FROM GOD'S TRUE PURPOSES IN LIFE.

THE FALSE TEACHERS ARE PROMOTING UNBIBLICAL MYTHS AND ALSO MISHANDLING THE BIBLICAL POINTS THEY ARE MAKING. THE BOOK OF ACTS RECORDS HOW OFTEN PEOPLE WERE USING THE MOSAIC LAW IN PARTICULAR TO INVALIDATE THE CROSS OF CHRIST. PAUL WILL NOW MOVE ON TO ADDRESS THE PROPER PLACE OF THE LAW IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

Q - WHEN YOU THINK OF THE MOSAIC LAW, WHAT COMES TO YOUR MIND?

## 1 TIMOTHY 1:8-11 - THE LAW IS GOOD, BUT NOT GOSPEL

TO SAY THAT KEEPING THE MOSAIC LAW IS NOT REQUIRED FOR SALVATION DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE MOSAIC LAW IS NOT USEFUL OR SACRED OR GOOD. THIS SEEMS TO BE A REPEATED THEME IN PAUL'S LETTERS. PAUL, FORMERLY A DEVOTED PHARISEE, IS NOT TEACHING OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT COMES BY FAITH ALONE AND SOME SURELY WOULD ACCUSE HIM OF THEM SETTING ASIDE THE SPIRIT-INSPIRED OLD TESTAMENT WRITINGS AS USELESS OR OF NO VALUE. SO UNITED WITH HIS "FAITH ALONE" MESSAGE, HE WILL OFTEN HIGHLIGHT THE PURPOSE AND VIRTUE OF THE LAW SO AS TO NOT BE MISUNDERSTOOD OF IGNORING GOD'S WORD.

ONE OF PAUL'S MAIN IDEAS IS THAT THE LAW IS GOOD, NOT FOR MAKING ONE GOOD, BUT FOR SHOWING ONE THAT THEY ARE BAD! THE LAW OF MOSES SHOWS HUMANS THEIR NEED FOR A SAVIOR BECAUSE THE HIGH AND RIGHTEOUS STANDARD SET AND SHOWN IN THE MOSAIC LAW WAS UNATTAINABLE BY ALL. THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW ISN'T TO MAKE ONE RIGHTEOUS, BUT TO REVEAL WE ARE UNRIGHTEOUS AND NEED SALVATION AND FORGIVENESS. THE LAW REVEALS GOD'S RIGHTEOUS STANDARD.

PAUL IS ALSO RAISING THAT THE LAW IS/WAS FOR THOSE WHO WERE DOING THE WRONG THING. YOU HAVE A SPEED LIMIT BECAUSE PEOPLE WOULD DRIVE TOO FAST, ENDANGERING THEMSELVES AND OTHERS. YOU HAVE PROPERTY LINES AND FENCES BECAUSE PEOPLE WOULD PUT UP THEIR SHED ON YOUR PROPERTY AND TRESPASS AGAINST THEIR NEIGHBORS.

**FOR EXAMPLE:** HERE'S SOME EXAMPLES TO HELP US UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW. IF THE SPEED LIMIT IS 65, WE KNOW HOW FAST WE SHOULDN'T GO, BUT WE DON'T HAVE A SPECIFIC DIRECTION OF THE BEST SPEED TO TRAVEL IN A TORRENTIAL RAINSTORM ON THAT SAME ROAD. IF THE LAW SAYS YOU CAN'T ENCROACH OVER YOUR NEIGHBORS PROPERTY, IT DOES NOT DIRECT WHICH COLOR TO PAINT YOUR SHED OR THE HEIGHT YOU SHOULD KEEP YOUR LAWN. IF THE LAW SAYS YOU CANNOT GET MARRIED UNTIL YOU ARE 18 YEARS OLD, THERE IS NO LEGAL DIRECTION ABOUT HOW TO CHOOSE THE BEST SPOUSE.

THE EXAMPLES ABOVE AREN'T PERFECT, BUT THE ILLUSTRATION IS TO HELP US SEE HOW THE LAW IS GOOD, BUT THE LAW IN AND OF ITSELF DOES NOT HAVE THE POWER TO DIRECT THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF A HUMAN HEART

THE SPECIFIC SINS LISTED HAVE THEIR ROOTS IN THE MOSAIC LAW AND THE FIRST TEN COMMANDMENTS THEMSELVES:

### THE 10 COMMANDMENTS (SEE EXODUS 20 & DEUTERONOMY 5 FOR FULL WORDING):

1. I AM THE LORD (YAHWEH) YOUR GOD, YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.
2. YOU SHALL NOT MAKE IDOLS.
3. YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD (YAHWEH) YOUR GOD IN VAIN.
4. REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY.
5. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER.
6. YOU SHALL NOT MURDER.
7. YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.
8. YOU SHALL NOT STEAL.
9. YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR.
10. YOU SHALL NOT COVET.

### SPECIFIC SINS LISTED:

- #1-3 - LAWLESS, REBELLIOUS, UNGODLY, SINNERS, UNHOLY
- #1, 3-4 - UNHOLY, PROFANE
- #5 - THOSE WHO KILL THEIR FATHERS OR MOTHERS
- #6 - FOR MURDERERS
- #7 - IMMORAL MEN (SEXUALLY IMMORAL PEOPLE), HOMOSEXUALS
- #8, 10 - KIDNAPPERS (ENSLAVERS)
- #9 - LIARS, PERJURERS

(AND THEN PAUL ADDS THIS FOR GOOD MEASURE - "AND WHATEVER ELSE IS CONTRARY TO SOUND TEACHING...")

WITH ALL OF THIS BEING SAID, ONE SHOULD NOT CONCLUDE THAT THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST SOMEHOW OVERLOOKS OR ALLOWS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF SIN. A CHRISTIAN IS CERTAINLY FORBIDDEN FROM ALL OF THE PRACTICES OUTLINED BY PAUL IN V. 9-10. BUT THE GOSPEL ANNOUNCES FORGIVENESS OF AND FREEDOM FROM SIN BECAUSE OF THE WORK OF CHRIST. AND NOW, THROUGH THE SPIRIT, A CHRISTIAN IS EMPOWERED TO OVERCOME THESE SINS, SOMETHING THE LAW COULD NOT OFFER. THIS IS WHAT PAUL CALLS "SOUND (AKA HEALTHY/WHOLESOME) TEACHING ACCORDING TO THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL...(V. 11)"

### 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17 - CHRIST CAME TO SAVE SINNERS! PRAISE BE TO GOD!

THE LAW SHOWS US OUR SIN, BUT THE GOSPEL BRINGS SALVATION! PAUL IS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF THE SAVING POWER OF THE GOSPEL. HIS CONVERSION AND SALVATION IS NOT A ONE-OFF, BUT A DEMONSTRATION TO ALL THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAVING ONE.

PAUL'S LIFE BEFORE FOLLOWING JESUS:

**PHILIPPIANS 3:5-6** - CIRCUMCISED THE EIGHTH DAY, OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL, OF THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN, A HEBREW OF HEBREWS; AS TO THE LAW, A PHARISEE; 6 AS TO ZEAL, A PERSECUTOR OF THE CHURCH; AS TO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS IN THE LAW, FOUND BLAMELESS.

## ACTS 22:3-5, 6-21 - PAUL RECOUNTS HIS BACKGROUND AND HIS CONVERSION

Q - AFTER READING ABOUT PAUL'S FORMER LIFE AND CONVERSION, WHAT WORDS/PHRASES STAND OUT TO YOU AS YOU READ PAUL'S EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FOR JESUS CHRIST (V. 12-16) AND WHY DO THEY STAND OUT FOR YOU?

"**TRUSTWORTHY STATEMENT**" - THIS PHRASE IS USED 5X IN THE PASTORAL EPISTLES. IT SEEMS TO EXPRESS A SERIOUS EMPHASIS ON THE STATEMENTS THAT WILL FOLLOW BEING TRUE. IT'S LIKE PAUL IS SAYING: "*WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SAY HERE IS CERTAINLY TRUE AND SHOULD BE ACCEPTED AND BELIEVED BY ALL*". IN THE FIRST USAGE OF THIS WORD, WE'RE REMINDED OF THE GLORIOUS TRUTH THAT "JESUS CHRIST CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS!" IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THESE 5 SAYINGS WERE SIMPLE PHRASES MEANT TO BE RECITED AND POPULARLY KNOWN.

PAUL IS VERY MINDFUL OF THE STANDARD FOR RIGHT/WRONG GIVEN DIRECTLY BY GOD HIMSELF TO HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE (AKA THE LAW). THE SAD IRONY IS THAT HE WAS A ZEALOUS ADHERENT TO THE LAW AND YET GUILTY OF BREAKING IT IN HIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH. THE LANGUAGE HERE COMMUNICATES THAT PAUL REMAINS MINDFUL OF HIS SIN, HIS NEED FOR SAVING, THE GRACE THAT HE WAS SHOWN - AND IT ALL BUBBLES UP IN THANKS TO HIS SAVIOR AND PRAISE TO HIS GOD.

PAUL MAY SEEM LIKE THE GREATEST FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST IN HISTORY, AND PERHAPS HE WAS. BUT THAT WAS NOT HOW IT ALL STARTED. HE WAS IN MANY WAYS THE WORST SINNER - FOR IN HIS ARROGANCE HE CLAIMED TO BE DOING GOD'S WORK BY KILLING THE FOLLOWERS OF GOD'S ONLY SON.

AT SOME POINT IN OUR LIVES WE TOO FIND OURSELVES SOMEWHERE ON THE SINNER'S SPECTRUM - MAYBE WE STOLE A CANDY BAR AS AN 11 YEAR OLD, MAYBE WE COMMITTED ADULTERY. MAYBE WE EMBEZZLED MONEY FROM A CHILDHOOD CANCER ORGANIZATION OR LIED TO A PARENT TO GET OUT OF TROUBLE. WHETHER WE HAVE A FULL LIFE SENTENCE FOR A HEINOUS CRIME OR WE'RE JUST FULL OF OURSELVES, WE'RE ALL SINNERS. GOD'S LAW MAKES THIS CLEAR - WE HAVE COMMITTED CRIMES AGAINST GOD'S HOLY LAW. THAT WAS TRUE OF SAUL OF TARSUS AND IT'S TRUE OF SALLY FROM TOLEDO.

IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER OUR STORY - OUR RESUME BEGINS AND ENDS WITH "SINNER" BEFORE WE KNOW THE GRACE OF GOD. BUT ONCE WE HAVE REALIZED OUR SIN, AND OUR NEED FOR A SAVIOR AND THEN WE MEET HIM AND ARE TOUCHED BY GOD'S GOOD GRACE - EVERYTHING CHANGES. PAUL IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF WHAT GRACE CAN DO. I PRAY THAT OUR GRATITUDE FOR AND RESPONSE TO SALVATION WOULD BE WELL KNOWN BY THOSE WE MEET TODAY.

**1 TIMOTHY 1:15** - IT IS A TRUSTWORTHY STATEMENT, DESERVING FULL ACCEPTANCE, THAT CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS, AMONG WHOM I AM FOREMOST OF ALL.