

Life Group Notes 5/21/2023
Pastor Mark Warren 1 Timothy 1 Week 1

[If you have observations or questions feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net.-Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.

(This is written to give you good things to enjoy, because look again at what Paul told Timothy (1 Tim 6:17-18) **17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be conceited and not to put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth, but in God, WHO RICHLY PROVIDES ALL THINGS TO ENJOY. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share...**)

Note: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP. The purpose is to unite, not divide; to facilitate discussion and to discern the freedom the gospel brings. Any part of these notes might be appropriate as a crowd breaker for your own group. The goal is to create memories from Sunday that will serve for a long time.** BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! **Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study. This study is also a great devotion, taken slowly through the week.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions Pastor Mark has raised this week, 5/21 on 1 Timothy 1. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** Do not be daunted by the number of pages. As an editorial decision, I include each of the passages mentioned in full to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes, rather than having you, the reader, look up each reference. If your Bible is open beside you, you can transfer and annotate from these pages with ease. This week has several footnotes on people, places and principles mentioned by Paul in this letter. Footnotes are not meant to distract, but enhance the reading, and to help find answers to questions that arise. This week's footnotes include:

1. [On Timothy](#)
2. [On the epistles to Timothy](#)
3. [On genealogies](#)
4. [On Hymenaeus and Alexander...and handing over to satan.](#)
5. [On Paul the teacher and lesson planning](#)
6. [On a Holy Spirit protection plan](#)
7. [On prophecy being a license to pray](#)

Pastor Mark says we come to church to see things that come to us directly from the heart of God. "As we start this series on 1 Timothy, you're going to have some moments where the Spirit of God is actually speaking to you." He

says, "We don't come to church to be entertained, but we come to church to meet with Jesus, and He is speaking to us." **What were your thoughts when you heard this? Was anything different this Sunday? Do you have a testimony?**

1 Timothy 1 New King James Version

Greeting

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope,

² To Timothy, a true son in the faith:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

1. How is Timothy a "true son" in the faith? (In your private time, follow the link [in footnote 1 below](#). It's a great read.)
2. What happens when Paul says, "Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ?"

³ As I urged you when I went to Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, ⁴ nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. ⁵ Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, ⁶ from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, ⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

1. Notice that Paul has left Timothy in Ephesus for a purpose.
2. Take a moment to look up Acts 20:17-30
3. Re-read the prophecy Paul spoke to the Ephesian elders, vv. 18-21 and 27-31 ¹⁸"You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; ²⁰ how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ... ²⁷ For I have not [Ⓜ]shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church [Ⓜ]of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking [Ⓜ]perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹ Therefore watch and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears." What do you see? How is Paul using Timothy to reinforce his teaching, and to prevent the wolves in the prophecy from taking the upper hand? Look at Revelation 2 1-7, Jesus' letter

to the Ephesians. What do we know of the spiritual warfare of the city? What is Paul's urgency for Timothy, now the Bishop of Ephesus?

4. What's happening in Ephesus? What are people arguing over?
5. Have you ever had a teacher who didn't know what he was talking about? Have you ever been disciplined by a teacher who didn't know his subject matter? How did you respond? What was the result?
6. How easy is it to find reasons to argue? Why? What chance does a church have that is divided against itself? Is there an adequate substitute to the gospel as it is taught in the New Testament?
7. Is there a difference between the gospel Paul taught the Ephesians and throughout the known world with Timothy, and the gospel we're hearing today? What, if any, are the major differences AND how do you get back to the gospel Paul preached? What is the BEST source for that gospel? The Bible and Who else? What must you do about this?
8. Pastor Mark says, "Your life depends on being in God's Word." Explain.
9. Look at verse 5. [See footnote 5 below.](#) What is the chief aim of Paul's teaching? What are the three domains of Love? What does a pure heart do for love? How does a clean conscience enhance love? How does a stained conscience prevent love? What does unfeigned faith produce? What does feigned faith produce? What is *unfeigned* faith based on? Solely? Or is it the Word and...something else?
10. What does verse 6 say happens when love is not the goal? Do you have a testimony? What kind of "idle talk" have you heard in sermons? What has been the result?
11. Are there preachers you know of whose ministries are made up of making "confident assertions," as Mark put it, but whose ministry is based on conjecture and not scripture? Do their teachings lead to love from a pure heart, a clean conscience and an unfeigned faith? What are the dangers of their teachings? What is the remedy?

⁸ But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, ⁹ knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, ¹⁰ for fornicators (*pornois*, engaged in sexually immoral behavior), for homosexuals (*arsenokoites*, engaged in same sex sexual encounters), for human traffickers (*andropodistes*, slave traders), for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, ¹¹ according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.

1. What perspective does this add to the teaching of the Law?

2. What does it mean, "The Law is not made for a righteous person but for the lawless...etc.?"
3. Look at Paul's list of "offenders." How many reflect the "works of the flesh in Galatians? What is the mark of bad teaching?
4. How much of what's on this list is being encouraged today as "normal" even "admirable" behavior? Why should we be on our guard against the world and its teaching?
5. How does loving God change behavior? How does it change our ability to listen?
6. What makes this gospel glorious?

Now think of this: What is the goal and teaching of the Law, according to Jesus? What is the "Law of Love" that Mark spoke of from Matthew 22:37-38? [35](#)One of them, an expert in the law, tested Him with a question: [36](#)"Teacher, which commandment is the greatest in the Law?" [37](#)Jesus declared, "**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**" [38](#)This is the first and greatest commandment. [39](#)And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' [40](#)All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

7. How does this line up with Paul's goal and teaching in verse 5?
8. Pastor Mark says the Law can speak to behavior, but the Law of Love deals with a decision. If Jesus said, "*If anyone wants to be my disciple, they must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*" How does this fit? How much of this is a personal decision we must make? What does "denying yourself" involve? What does "taking up your cross" involve? What does following Jesus involve? How are you doing?
9. How much of "loving God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength..." comes from "a pure heart, a clean conscience and an unfeigned faith?" How does Paul's goals compare to Jesus' Law of Love? How often must one "deny oneself?" When is it OK to stop "denying oneself?" When can one put down the cross he took up? What is the cost? What is the reward? What is the reward of seeking the Kingdom and His righteousness first?
10. Pastor Mark says, "We are trained to think about ourselves." How is this, Paul's teaching, revolutionary?
11. Pastor Mark speaks of chivalry as "being mindful of someone else." What does that change? Who benefits?
12. He says, "Being mindful of another involves three statements: 'I see you.' 'I hear you.' 'I understand you.'" Explain.

12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, **13** although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. **14** And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. **15** This is

a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. ¹⁶ However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

1. Where does Paul's faith come from? What, outside of the Word, has contributed to His faith? What happens to one when one is faithful over years?
2. How much of Paul's past is present in his work? How much does it interfere with his success? Explain? Why is grace experienced a weapon in itself?
3. How does Paul know Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners? How does Paul know he's saved? How does anyone know?
4. Read verse 17 aloud three times. What happens to the atmosphere?

Fight the Good Fight

¹⁸ This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, ¹⁹ having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, ²⁰ of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

1. What does Paul know of the prophecies previously made? Who do you suppose made them? [See the footnote 1 below](#). Prophecy is a license to pray. ([See footnote 7.](#)) Describe how Timothy is to "wage the good warfare" using the prophecy that was spoken over him.
2. Notice what warring with the promises previously made and received results in: faith and a good conscience. Look back at verse 5. How clear is the priority?
3. What happens when you reject the faith taught, and begin to invent as Hymenaeus and Alexander did?

Take the time to pray.

The Follow-up Application

1. Look someone in the eye today and have a conversation. Note the difficulties.
2. Mark says we have to choose, every day, to love. Choose to love and describe what that decision requires. Be specific. How did you do?
3. Review the promises highlighted in this message.
4. Remember Who began the work in you. Remember what that means.
5. Decide to outdo someone else in honoring them.
6. Do a 1 Corinthians 13 assessment on your love this week. How did you do?
7. Answer this: How does love encourage boldness?

Scribes Notes:

- 1. On Timothy, the disciple**—It appears Paul first met Timothy as a young child on his first trip to Lystra and Derbe, in southern Galatia, where he got stoned in Acts 14. If you remember he got left for dead, and if what he writes to the Galatians in chapter 4 applies, he was not in very good shape when he got up and went to preach the next day. “You have not injured me at all. ¹³ You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first. ¹⁴ And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an ^(e)angel of God, *even* as Christ Jesus.” On his second trip, he was persuaded to allow Timothy to travel with him. Timothy is mentioned twenty-three times in the New Testament, each in the context of his travels with Paul or in his leadership. We’ll discover, reading these epistles, personal details: that Paul knew his mother and grandmother personally, that Timothy was prophesied over in Paul’s presence with the laying on of hands, which prophecy gave Timothy extraordinary license to pray. Here is an excellent article on Timothy’s relationship with Paul throughout the New Testament. [Timothy - Encyclopedia of The Bible - Bible Gateway](https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/encyclopedia-of-the-bible/Timothy)
(<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/encyclopedia-of-the-bible/Timothy>)
The salient point to remember is that Timothy traveled with Paul and watched the first entrance of the gospel in Europe at Philippi. He saw the planting and growth of the church at Corinth. Timothy was a firsthand witness to the birth of the Christian church, trained in leadership by the best and most effective leader in the history of the church. Timothy knew the church whose faith was not in word nor the wisdom of men but in the power of God. He knew the gospel that Paul preached.
- 2. On 1 and 2 Timothy, the epistles**—These letters were written to Timothy when he was the Bishop of Ephesus. They are classified in the category of Paul’s “Pastoral Epistles,” because they were written, not to the general church population, but to a pastor/bishop/leader. This is a snapshot in Christian leadership, an apostle instructing a bishop in conduct and principle. Since we are all being “perfected for the work of the ministry,” in other words, trained in leadership, it is good to read these epistles with a deep appreciation of the responsibility that a leader has...and the discernment necessary for effective ministry. Contrast Paul’s tone in his letter to Timothy to that we saw in his letter to the Romans, or in the letters Peter wrote.
- 3. On genealogies**—Paul mentions arguments over genealogies. What do you think that’s about? The New Testament contains two detailed genealogies for Jesus. Matthew traces His roots back to Abraham. Luke the physician traces his roots back to Adam. These two genealogies do

not match, and experts, scholars and folks who enjoy trivial pursuit have written volumes seeking to harmonize and explain the differences. Could that be what was happening in Ephesus?

4. **On Hymenaeus and Alexander and handing over to satan**—Look at verses 19 and 20: “having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, 20 of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme. What is that all about? Looking again at Paul’s concerns that he mentioned to the Ephesian Elders and Jesus’ concern in Revelation 2, what are these men doing? Hymenaeus doesn’t stop his folly, and is mentioned again in II Timothy, with Philetus, another divisive teacher. Alexander, likewise is mentioned again in 2 Timothy 4: [14 Alexander the coppersmith did great harm to me. The Lord will repay him according to his deeds.](#) [15](#) You too should beware of him, for he has vigorously opposed our message. How do you suppose a coppersmith made a living in a pagan town where images of Diana were sold as souvenirs and good luck charms? What has happened to his business as Christianity spread? There is no handbook on “handing over to satan,” and no further instruction. However, one point seems clear. Answer this: Is “handing over to satan” a death sentence? ...or a call to repentance and the offer of a return to life? There is one other time in 1 Corinthians 5 when Paul uses this weapon against one who is committing sexual immorality: [4](#) When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, along with the power of the Lord Jesus, [5](#) [hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the Day of the Lord.](#) [6](#) Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven works through the whole batch of dough? What do you see? Is this a death sentence? In 2 Corinthians, it is clear that this man repented, and is brought back into the fold. What does this teach us about the sobering weapons that we have at our disposal?
5. **On Paul the teacher and lesson planning**—Paul has always been the quintessential teacher for me, because of the meticulous way he lays out his lesson. Here in verse 5, Paul the teacher shows Timothy the teacher the key goal, the “essential purpose” in his teaching: [5](#) *Now the purpose (Greek τέλος *telos*, end/purpose/goal) of the commandment (παραγγελία, *parangelia*, instruction, teaching, precept, command) is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith...* See how Paul sets the plan and the standard in place whereby the success of one’s teaching can be measured. What is the measure whereby a good teacher can be seen? Is the ultimate goal the knowledge of histories, genealogies and doctrines? In your own words, what is the ultimate goal of Paul’s instruction? Look at the

rest of the story: ⁶ *from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk,* ⁷ *desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.* How can you tell if the teaching has not met the goal? What happens when you turn away from what Paul teaches to theories and invention?

6. **On a Holy Spirit Protection plan** included in the gospel—Jesus, at the end of Mark 16, laid out signs that follow believers. He said, *“These signs shall follow those who have believed: In my name, they’ll cast out demons, they will speak in other tongues, **they will handle snakes, if they drink any deadly poison, it shall in no way harm them, they will lay their hands on the sick and it shall recover.**”* Although snakes and deadly poison exist, and Paul encountered a deadly snake on Malta in Acts 22, Jesus warned us to beware, not of that which can harm the body but cannot touch the soul, but indeed...we must beware of that which will send the soul to hell. The vipers Jesus dealt with were not reptiles, but men who were going to hell and who stood in the way of anyone entering the Kingdom of God...and He spoke against the poison of their doctrines, the “leaven of the pharisees” he called it. Does the Holy Spirit allow us to reject the false doctrines of which Paul is speaking, and to handle the evil speakers that are propagating the doctrine? Do you have a testimony where you recognized a false teacher before he was exposed and rejected publicly? What are sure signs of a false teacher? (Look again at Paul’s description of the “wolves” of Ephesus in Acts 20, [quoted above](#).)
7. **On prophecy as a license to pray**—There is much misunderstanding that is taught concerning prophecy. Paul says the purpose of prophecy is for the general good of the body, for “exhortation, edification and comfort.” (1 Corinthians 14) It is not for foretelling the future, although the entire Word of God leans to that end for us all. Prophecy in scripture guides the wise in their prayers, and is, in itself, a license to pray. Look at 2 Samuel 7, where Nathan (verses 8-16) comes to David and prophecies the future of his kingdom right through Messiah. It includes what Isaiah will eventually call “the unfailing/sure mercies of David.” David’s response, rather than a Charismatic two-step, is to immediately go in before the Lord, to sit and to pray, word for word the prophecy Nathan had just prophesied over him. Look now at what Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 1: [20](#) For as many as they be, the promises of God, they are “Yes” in Christ. And therefore, through Him, our “Amen” [is spoken] to the glory of God. We, like David, have license to pray...but through Christ, we pray every promise God ever made as though Nathan were speaking to them directly over us. This is the warfare Timothy was being taught, and always through the effective, fervent prayer of the righteous.