

## 1 TIMOTHY 1:1-11

We've looked at Acts 20:18-35 and the sermon Paul preached to the elders in the church of Ephesus.

Paul gave both them and us: an example to copy, clear instructions to follow, warnings about the dangers they will face, and the encouragement that God will look after them through His Word.

Look at 1 Timothy. Same church, but some years have gone by, Timothy is now the pastor there.

### A. Context

1. There are problems in this local church in Ephesus.

False teaching that Paul warned the elders about, has infiltrated the church.

"Certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations." (v3-4)

"Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions." (v6-7)

False teaching has a Jewish feel – trivial bits of the Bible like names of Noah's sons wives; talk about extra-biblical material, forbidding certain things.

False teaching that leaves Christians confused – verses 8-11 in area of godly living.

False teaching that distracted the church from its mission of preaching the gospel and making disciples.

2. Paul writes to Timothy and the big message is... "Sort out the church for the sake of the gospel!"<sup>i</sup>

### B. By silencing the false teachers

"As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith." (v3-5)

1. Timothy is charged with the painful job of commanding the false teachers to stop.

2. Application:

Speak up about false teaching publically – not popular but we must.

Careful about what we call false teaching – baptism, spiritual gifts, eschatology not as important as the gospel.

Careful about being obsessed with secondary issues – not as important as the gospel.

Careful about go after the latest thing.

Careful about who we partner with (e.g. churches together), books/events we recommend, allow to preach.

Speaking as elders with one voice. Confusion is one elder is saying one thing and another elder something else.

### C. By speaking the gospel

1. The gospel brings salvation, hope, mercy, grace and peace.

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Saviour and of Christ Jesus our hope, To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.” (v1-2)

2. The gospel leads to godly living.

It changes lives.

“The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.” (v5)

It calls sin “Sin”.

“Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.” (v8-11)

It leads to mission.

3. Application

If someone came to Banstead Community Church – would they leave thinking that the most important thing to us is the gospel?

---

<sup>i</sup> John Stevens phrase taken from his messages at the FIEC Leaders Conference in 2011