

## 1 Timothy 1

-Now, we will study God and Paul's first letter to Timothy.

-Although this letter was written by God and Paul to Timothy, it is written to all Christians.

-This is because it is the Word of God.

Let's read 1 Timothy 1:1

1-Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

-Paul was chosen to be an apostle by God on the road to Damascus.

-It was the command of God that Paul would be an apostle, and it is also the command of God that we Christians would believe in the Lord Jesus.

-As with Paul, God planned to save us Christians even before He created the world (Ep 1:4).

-1 Timothy 1:1 says that God is both our Savior and our hope.

-How is God our Savior and Christ our hope?

-Although we are living in a world filled with sin and

death, God has saved us through Christ whose death on the cross is our hope to escape sin and death.

Let's read 1 Timothy 1:2

2-To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

-The name Timothy means "one who honors God."

-Timothy's mother and grandmother were Christians, and taught Timothy about God when he was a boy.

-Paul may have met Timothy in Lystra on his first missionary journey (Acts 14:6-23).

-It was on Paul's second missionary journey when he returned to Lystra that he chose Timothy to minister with him (Acts 16:2).

-Why did Paul call Timothy "my true son in the faith?"

-Timothy may have been Paul's most loved fellow worker, most loved disciple, and most loved brother in Christ.

-Timothy was Paul's close companion on Paul's second and third missionary journeys, teaching together in Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth, and Ephesus.

-This is why Paul calls Timothy a true son in the faith.

-In many of his letters, Paul begins with a prayer for grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

-As God through Timothy was leading the church in Ephesus where there was false teaching, Timothy needed much grace, mercy, and peace.

-All of us Christians, too, need grace, mercy, and peace not only to be saved, but also during our daily lives.

Let's read 1 Timothy 1:3-4

3-As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer.

4-Or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work—which is by faith.

-At the end of the book of Acts, we learned that Paul was imprisoned in Rome.

-It seems that Paul was released from prison, and after visiting other places, went with Timothy to Ephesus.

-After teaching, Paul left Timothy in Ephesus and went to Macedonia where he wrote this letter.

-Why did God and Paul write this letter to Timothy and to all Christians?

-Because there were people in the church in Ephesus and there are people in the church today who teach false doctrines.

-What are false doctrines?

-False doctrines teach that Christ is not the only way to God and eternal salvation.

-False doctrines teach that people can somehow make their own way to God and thereby, earn their salvation.

-Along with false doctrines, people were also teaching myths and genealogies that caused arguments.

-Do false teachings come from the Word of God?

-No.

-Do false teachings help us to defeat sin?

-No.

-Do false teachings help us to live in the power of the Holy Spirit?

-No.

-False teaching can cause people to go to eternal death, and this is why we must be warned.

-Years earlier, at the end of his third missionary journey, Paul had warned the leaders of the church at Ephesus that

false teachers would enter the church (Acts 20:26-31).

-Now, even though Paul had warned the elders of the church at Ephesus, false teachers had entered the church.

-God and Paul's warning should be a warning to us all.

-How can we guard against false teaching from coming into the church?

-By not allowing anyone to teach anything that is not the Word of God.

-Can Christians be led to teach things that hurt and do not help believers?

-Yes.

-Satan's servants can come into the church from the outside to confuse Christians with false teaching.

-Just as Paul taught Timothy, we should teach one another to protect us all from false teaching.

Let's read 1 Timothy 1:18-19a

18-Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well,

19-holding on to faith and a good conscience,

-While the Christian life is a life of joy and peace with God, we must not forget that it is also war against this evil world, our own sinful flesh, and Satan.

-In this world, we Christians will always have problems with this evil world.

-We read this in Ephesians 6:12:

-“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world.”

-In this world, we Christians will always have problems with our own sinful flesh.

-Paul talked about his war against his flesh in Romans 7:18-19:

-“For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my [flesh]. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.”

-In this world, we Christians will always have problems with Satan.

-As Jesus told Simon Peter in Luke 22:31:

-“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat.”

- In the highest heaven, spiritual battles are fought between God and Satan.
- Spiritual battles are also fought between angels and demons.
- Regarding humans, spiritual battles are fought between people of God and people of Satan.
- While Satan knows that he cannot defeat God, whom does he attack?
  - People.
- While Satan keeps non-Christians as his slaves, against whom is his greatest work?
  - Against the church.
- Within the church, against whom is Satan's greatest work?
  - Against the elders of the church.
- If the elders or shepherds of the flock are destroyed, then the flock must run away.
- This was the biggest problem in the church at Ephesus.
- There were elders in the church who were false teachers.
- According to 1 Timothy 1:18, how can Timothy and all Christians fight the battle well?

- By holding on to faith and a good conscience.
- What does it mean to hold on to faith?
  - It means to never let go of the truths of God.
- We must remember to never change, add to, or take away from the Word of God.
- We are also taught to hold on to a good conscience.
- What is our conscience?
  - Our conscience is that which God has given us on the inside to know right and wrong.
  - When we do right, our conscience is full of peace.
  - When we do wrong, our conscience is full of guilt and shame.
- How do we keep a good conscience before God?
  - By agreeing with our conscience when it judges our thoughts that are wrong and against the Word of God.
- Here is an example:
  - If we become angry and scream at our friend for something he did not do, our conscience becomes troubled.

-Because our conscience becomes troubled, this is a sign that we have sinned and done something wrong.

-If our conscience becomes troubled, should we ignore it?

-No.

-We should agree with our conscience, admit our sin, and make peace with those we have wronged.

-By making peace with those we have wronged, our conscience will also be at peace again.

Let's read 1 Timothy 1:19-20

19-holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith.

20-Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

-If we do not hold on to faith and a good conscience, our faith will be like a wrecked ship.

-Before Paul left Ephesus, why did he hand over Hymenaeus and Alexander to Satan?

-To teach them not to blaspheme by teaching lies about the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Because Hymenaeus and Alexander were teachers, we understand that they must have been elders in the church.

-What does it mean to hand someone over to Satan?

-First, it is important to understand that 1 Timothy is written to Christians, and therefore, the Word of God is teaching about handing over Christians to Satan.

-For those who do not believe in God, they already belong to Satan.

-Although the Holy Spirit filled Saul to help him when he became king of Israel, the Holy Spirit left Saul because he did not believe in God.

-Saul died belonging to Satan.

-Even though Judas was one of the twelve disciples, he did not believe in Christ.

-The Word of God says that Satan entered Judas, and Judas betrayed Christ.

-Judas died belonging to Satan.

-What does it mean to hand a Christian over to Satan?

-To push them out of the church into the world where Satan is the ruler.

-When Christians are pushed out of the church, the church no longer protects them from Satan.

-What is the purpose of handing a Christian over to Satan?

-Let us look at a few examples from the Word of God:

-God handed Job over to Satan, and Satan arranged for Job's children to be killed, Job's cattle to be stolen, and Job's body to become very sick.

-Even though Job lost almost everything, what did he say about God?

-“Though [God] slay me, yet will I hope in him (Job 13:15).

-God handed Christ over to Satan to be tempted in the desert.

-What was the result of God handing Christ over to Satan?

-Christ showed all people that His power and our power over Satan is the Word of God.

-In Corinth, there was a Christian in the church who was sleeping with his father's wife.

-God through Paul said this: “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” (1 Cor 5:5).

-When Christ was teaching about believers who refused to listen to the church, He said this:

-“If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector” (Mt 18:17).

-God handed Job over to Satan for a time, and at the end, Job's faith in God was much more strong.

-God handed Christ over to Satan for a time, and at the end, Christ has showed the world that He and the Word of God are more powerful than Satan.

-God asked the church in Corinth to hand a Christian over to Satan so that his spirit would be saved.

-Because God is perfect and without sin, what are some of His reasons for handing Christians over to Satan?

-To increase our faith in God.

-To teach us that God & His Word are more powerful than Satan.

-To save our eternal soul from Satan.

-Because God is perfect and without sin, even if He hands people over to Satan, it will be for their eternal good.