



Doctrines for Dollars - 1 Tim 1:1-7

Feb 16 - Dave Navarro

INTRO

In a way, 1 Timothy is a sequel to Ephesians. It's another letter of Paul's instructions for the church in Ephesus, sent a few years after the first one. Problems had arisen within the church, and Paul and Timothy wanted to address them. The first, and perhaps most important, problem: doctrines for dollars.

Open with prayer¹, then read 1 Tim 1:1-7 together as a group. Consider dividing it by paragraph. It's helpful to all use the same Bible translation. SLC preaches from the NLT.

SERMON RECAP

1. Intro: The sequel and the happy ending!
2. Recap Ephesians and pivot to 1 Timothy
3. Intro Timothy
 - a. Met Paul in Acts 16. Became Paul's co-worker.
 - b. Co-authored 6 books of the Bible.
 - c. Sent on assignment to several places, including Ephesus.
4. The problem in Ephesus: False Teachers
 - a. Walk through 1:4,7; 4:1-5, 6:2b-5
 - b. False teachings drawn from Torah
 - c. Specific teachings
 - i. Myths
 - ii. Spiritual pedigrees
 - iii. No marriage

¹ Some groups prefer to begin with a longer time of sharing and prayer. This is a good instinct and ensures that prayer time doesn't get shortened by time constraints.



- iv. Dietary restriction
- d. The motivation: profit!
- 5. Doctrines for Dollars
 - a. Remember, Ephesians were used to paying for spirituality.
 - b. Christianity = new market.
 - c. Still a problem today. Benny Hinn.
- 6. Discernment
 - a. Accountability
 - b. Carrots & Sticks
- 7. Above all: the goal is not meaningless speculation, but genuine faith (1:4-5)
 - a. Jesus in Mat 7:15 “You will know a tree by its fruit”

BONUS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

If you're covering 2 sermons in 1 Life Group meeting, skip to the Core Discussion Questions to save time. Otherwise, start here.

1. Timothy knows Paul, but Paul specifies his title as an Apostle in 1:1. Why do you think he does this?
2. Dave pointed out that Timothy is a listed co-author on 6 of Paul's letters (2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, Philemon - read the 1st verse of each letter if you want to check!). Usually we think of Paul writing his letters alone, but Paul co-authors letters with Silas and Sosthenes. Additionally, and it was common practice in the ancient world for multiple authors to collaborate verbally, while a paid scribe wrote down what they said. How does this change the way we think about the inspiration and writing of the Bible?

CORE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Acts 16:1-3. Dave shared that Paul had Timothy circumcised so that he wouldn't offend the Jews they were trying to reach. He did this despite the fact that the Apostles had just confirmed that Christians DIDN'T need to be circumcised (see Acts 15).
 - a. How would a modern western person respond to this request?
 - b. What does this tell us about Paul's and Timothy's values?
 - c. What does this tell us about the way we apply rules?
2. Read 1 Tim 1:4-5.
 - a. In V4, what are “meaningless speculations” contrasted with?
 - b. In V5, Paul states that the goal of his teaching is love that comes from:



- i. a pure heart
- ii. a clear conscience
- iii. genuine faith.

Define each of the above items, and explain how each of of them can help love grow.

3. What are some examples of unhelpful teachings, or profit-driven teachings, that you see in the modern context? How do we evaluate them, according to 1 Tim 1:1-7?
4. What should Christians be occupied with, instead of unhelpful/meaningless discussions?

ACT & PRAY

1. As a group, share areas of praise and need. Write them down so you can be praying for them during the week.
2. Remind yourselves of your Adopt-a-Missionary, and any prayer requests you've seen from them.
3. Pray for Alpha. Huge thanks to those groups who are helping with food!
4. Spend time praying, either all together, or in smaller groups. Feel free to experiment with silent prayer, written prayer, etc.

