

*10For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers. 11Prescribe and teach these things. 12Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. 13Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. 14Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. 15Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. 16Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you. 1 Tim 4:10-16*

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This seems to be a time for us to do a little recap of what we've look at so far in First Timothy. If you recall, the Apostle Paul had instructed Timothy to remain on at Ephesus and teach and pastor the church Paul had established in the city. Here in 1 Tim 4:10 Paul wrote Timothy, *it is for this we labor and strive*. For what? For establishing the Ephesian church in the faith. Timothy was to labor instructing the church in the beliefs fundamental for Christian peoples. Beliefs about, as Paul wrote, *our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers. 1 Tim 4:10* Paul and the early church fathers were establishing fundamental teachings, *a common confession, great is the mystery of godliness 1Tim 3:16* The teachings of this letter were true when Paul first penned it because it expresses the unchangableness of God and the revelation of His eternal plan of salvation. 1 Timothy is equally true and vital to us as believers today.

Paul wrote telling Timothy to *prescribe and teach these things*. (Prescribe, *paraggelló* — to transmit a message, to command, order, charge and (Teach, *didaskó* — instruct, deliver didactic discourse. Bible teaching must be *precept upon precept, Line upon line*

*The theory of didactic learning methods focuses on the baseline knowledge students possess and seeks to improve upon and convey this information. It also refers to the foundation or starting point in a lesson plan, where the overall goal is knowledge. A teacher or educator functions in this role as an authoritative figure, but also as both a guide and a resource for students. wiki*

Timothy was commissioned for was to start from the foundation of what is true and build believers who themselves would be able to teach. Timothy, like Paul, had been given to the church for the equipping of saints for ministry, to teach truth and train in righteousness.

*11And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. Eph 4:11-13*

*16All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:16,17*

At the point Paul was writing this letter the only Scripture available to the church was the

OT. The early church didn't throw out the Law and the Prophets (the Old Testament) but began looking at them with new eyes. The plan of God love's and redemption of mankind by the Messiah is woven in the pages of the OT. Jesus used the OT when He was with two disciples in the village of Emmaus. He told them, *"O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 'Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?' Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. Luke 24:25-27* So the OT testament was to be used, *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching* but not as Jewish teachers who added to it *fables and endless genealogies*. They added their own spin on the law of God for their advantage.

5*"But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever I have that would help you has been given to God," he is not to honor his father or his mother.'* And by this you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition. 7*"You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you: 8'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. Matt 15: 5-8*

The OT is still valuable for believers. It tells how all creation was by God. The Law, God's rules of order was explained, as it was given to Moses. But, as Christians we understand that we are not saved by keeping the Law, we are saved by faith in the finished work of Christ. The OT tells of God's plan to cleanse believers from the stain of Sin, the results of the Fall, by the blood of Christ. The Law is to lead us to Christ, *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God Romans 3:23* Paul wrote in Roman's 7, *What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."* We learn right and wrong from God's perspective in the Scripture and when Paul was writing the OT was all that was established to be the Word of God. Timothy had the advantage of having a Jewish background, *the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek, 2and he was well spoken of by the brethren.* He had a greater foundation of Jewish history, rules and the Law, than a Gentile believer. This helped the early church in understanding what God was doing in the world, *God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. 2 Cor 5:19*

So recapping what Timothy was to be doing while pastoring in Ephesus, we begin in 1 Tim 1:3, 1) Keep believers focused on the truth. *Instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, 4nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith. 1 Tim 1:3,4* This would be true for the Jewish believers as well as the Gentiles. They were to avoid *fruitless discussions (vs 6)* But practice instead loving each other. *But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (vs 5)*

In chapter 2 Paul tells Timothy to encourage men to pray, *I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension. (vs 8)* As believers we can never pray to much unless God is telling us to act and we are refusing, 'I'm praying about that.' Pray puts in motion the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul talks specifically to woman and tells them to, *adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly (not shamefully but reverently). and discreetly.* Godly woman understand this, *live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall Rom 14:13* Chapter three is addressed to Overseers and Deacons. They are to be *temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach.* Paul's purpose was equipping Timo-

thy to be able to instruct the church at Ephesus *to conduct themselves in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.* 1 Tim 3:15 The church was established to support the truth, the reality of God's redeeming purpose in the world. This book has come to be accepted as Scripture, God's word to the Church, *profitable for teaching.* In chapter four Paul warns against apostasy, *deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, and hypocrisy (liars)* 1 Tim 4: 1,2 At no time has the church been immune from wandering from the truth. Paul wanted Timothy to teach correct doctrine and thus be a good servant of Christ.

*6In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following. 7But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; 8for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come* 1 Tim 4:6-8

Timothy was to *Prescribe and teach these things.* It seems that when Paul wrote this, Timothy was still a young man, *Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.* Age is not a factor in spiritual maturity. We think that with age should come wisdom but this is not always the case. Timothy as a young man was responsible for the spiritual well being of the Ephesian church. Paul must have seen him as the spiritual leader that was needed. But Timothy still had to live out his faith. Until Paul gets back Timothy is to *give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching.* 1 Tim 4:13

Timothy's ability was not dependent entirely dependent on natural ability. Timothy tended to be fearful as is evident by Paul reminding him *God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline (self control).* 2 Tim 1:7 But he is gift by the Holy Spirit, *there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.* 1 Cor 12:4 Paul doesn't tell us what giftings Timothy had, but most assuredly, administration and teach. Paul tells him not to neglect the gift, *Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery.* 1 Tim 4:17 *Fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you.* 2 Tim 1:6 NLT This is good advice for all believers, we all need to fan the flames of the Spirit in our lives. This is very much true today, we must not let our faiths grow cold. Jesus said a sign of the last days would be believers falling away, their faiths would grow cold. *12Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.* Matt 24:12

Let us take our spiritual temperature today. Jesus asked the question, *"when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"* What of us, how do we answer Jesus question? Paul tells Timothy to pay close attention, persevere and you will be saved but also those who hear your message. This is a great challenge to us to *ensure our salvation.*

*15Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. 16Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.* 1 Tim 4:10-16

*6Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. 7Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.* Is 55:6,7