

SERIES TITLE: CHURCH ON COURSE

PART ONE: CONTROVERSY VS MINISTRY

TEXT: 1 TIMOTHY 1:1-11

INTRODUCTION.

Timothy was a young pastor who was mentored by the apostle Paul. After Paul left Ephesus, he put Timothy in charge of organizing the churches. False teachers were endangering the mission. These teachers were speculating about obscure and less important matters, instead of preaching new life in Christ. In this letter, Paul encourages Timothy to deal with this situation and tells him how to move forward in ministry. Although addressed to one person, this letter was intended to benefit the whole church.

DISCUSSION.

Have you ever been mentored by someone? Describe the impact of that relationship.

EXAMINATION.

Vv.1-2 What do we learn about Paul and Timothy from these verses?

Vv.3-4 How do you think Timothy felt about being left in charge of this situation?

- What makes false teaching and preoccupation with myths so dangerous?

V.5 According to this verse, how should Timothy approach the problem?

Vv.6-7 What are the characteristics of the type of person Paul describes here?

Vv.8-11 How can the law be misused? (Galatians 3:24)

- What do you think of this list of sins? Are these the only important ones?
- If you consider how Jesus interpreted the law (Matt. 5:21-28), how many people are guilty of these sins?

APPLICATION.

- When does speculation become wrong and counterproductive to our mission?
- How do we determine what is a “primary” or “secondary” doctrine?

- Can you identify any controversies and meaningless talk that Christians are engaged in today? (try to do this without starting a controversy in your group)
- In your experience, has God been more of a 'lawgiver' or a 'lover'?
- How has your understanding about God changed as you've come to know him?
- FACT: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- REACT: What did you feel?
- ACT: What are you going to do?