

**SERIES TITLE: CHURCH ON COURSE**

**PART TWO: SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

**TEXT: 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-20**

**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.**

Think of a time when you had an accident or fell and hurt yourself. What factors contributed to the mishap?

**EXAMINATION.**

Vv.12-14 Why do you think Paul mentions these three sins from his past?

- Are they the worst things he did, or representative of all he did, or what?
- Does God forgive simply because we act in “ignorance and unbelief”? Why or why not?

Vv.15-17 What do you think of Paul’s attitude about his sinfulness?

- What most impresses you about Paul’s words here?

Vv.18-20 What kind of fight is Paul encouraging Timothy to be involved in? (see 2 Tim. 4:7)

- What do you see as the difference between “faith” and “a good conscience”?
- Check out what Hymenaeus was involved in (2 Tim 2:16-17); as well as Alexander (2 Tim 4:14).
- Why were these actions serious?
- What does it mean to be “handed over to Satan”? (see 1 Cor. 5:1-5)

**APPLICATION.**

- If you know someone who “shipwrecked” their faith, can you identify any contributing factors?
- What actions steps can you take to help “hold on to faith”?
- How can you proactively hold on to a “good conscience”?
- FACT: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- REACT: What did you feel?
- ACT: What are you going to do?