

Growing Strong in Faith | Part 1

Lesson 7

1 Timothy 1:1-11

May 21, 2023

How to Distinguish Truth from Lies

INTRODUCTION

All of us have, at least one time in our lives, experienced ungodly worldly temptations and desires. Depending upon our relationship with the Lord, we may or may not recognize them as such.

In Paul's letter to Timothy regarding the church in Ephesus, he is warning him to instruct against the pagan practices and false teachings of the time. False doctrine and teachings were evident within the church and needed correction.

We will learn about Paul's command to Timothy and the results of turning from the Word of God to worldly views and how that impacts lives. Why is the "law" not meant for the righteous? How can we hear God's voice amidst worldly confusion?

Memory Verse: "The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."—1 Timothy 1:5

Pray, and read 1 Timothy 1:1-11. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

OBSERVATION: What do the passages say?

1. What is Paul urging Timothy to do and why?
(1 Timothy 1:3-4)
2. What is the goal of Paul's command to Timothy?
(1 Timothy 1:5)
3. How have some turned from this command? What is the result? (1 Timothy 1:4, 6-7)
4. What is good if used properly? (1 Timothy 1:8)
5. For whom does Paul say the law is not made, and for whom is it made? (1 Timothy 1:9-11)

INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. Many in the church, including elders and teachers, had turned away from Christ and were teaching false doctrines. Paul's letter was a warning concerning pagan practices and doctrine not centered on Christ. What do you think Paul meant by "myths and endless genealogies" (v. 4)? (1 Timothy 4:7, 6:20-21; Titus 3:9)

2. Paul stated that, "The goal of this command is love...." (v. 5) He also said that, "Some have...turned to meaningless talk." (v. 6) What do you think is the result of teaching Christ's love and of meaningless talk or false teachings? (Matthew 5:17-19; 1 Timothy 6:3-5, 17-19)

3. Why do you think Paul says that the law is not for the righteous and is only for those who break the law (v. 9)? (Romans 7:7-12)

4. During Christian persecution, false teachings, and the growth of ungodly temptations, how do you think believers were to hear God's true voice?
(Romans 9:1; Hebrews 2:1)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. Was there a time in your life when you heard a Christian speaker or pastor make a statement or claim that did not seem right? How did that make you feel, and did you do anything about it?

2. Is there someone you know and love who is engaged in activity that is ungodly? How can you help or guide that person to a better understanding of the consequences and to knowledge of godly ways?

3. Have you ever been unsure of the right and wrong of the direction of your behavior or life? How did you resolve the confusion?