

1 Timothy 1 – Summary Thoughts

Table – 1 Timothy 1:1-20

- 1 *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;*
- 2 *Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.*
- 3 *As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,*
- 4 *Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.*
- 5 *Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:*
- 6 *From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;*
- 7 *Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.*
- 8 *But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully;*
- 9 *Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,*
- 10 *For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;*
- 11 *According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.*
- 12 *And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;*
- 13 *Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.*
- 14 *And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.*
- 15 *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*
- 16 *Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.*
- 17 *Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*
- 18 *This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;*
- 19 *Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:*
- 20 *Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.*

Notes on Table – 1 Timothy 1:1-20

For detailed comments see Dr Ruckman's commentary *Pastoral Epistles, I & II Timothy – Titus* pp i-vi, 1-30 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1580-1581, 1646.

1. 1 Timothy 1:1-2. Paul states a genuine apostolic creed to one of *“the disciples of the Lord”* Acts 9:1. Much had changed since Acts 9:1 because Paul had received grace and mercy from the Lord, 1 Timothy 1:12-15. Today's believer needs the same benefits. **“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”** Hebrews 4:12. Paul has written:

- 1.1. A personal letter: **“Paul...Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith”** 1 Timothy 1, 2:

Another father said what Paul desires for Timothy and what God desires for today's believer i.e. always remember Whose son you are.

“And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine” Luke 15:31.

- 1.2. An authoritative letter: **“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope”** 1 Timothy 1:1:

The written scripture of *“the apostles and prophets”* Ephesians 2:20 to hand is finally authoritative for today's believer and the Lord Jesus Christ is hope personified:

“Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle” 2 Thessalonians 2:15.

“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus” 2 Timothy 1:13.

“This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour” 2 Peter 3:1-2.

“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself” Philippians 3:20-21.

- 1.3. An uplifting letter: **“Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord”** 1 Timothy 1:2:

Such **“grace, mercy, and peace”** are **“a threefold cord...not quickly broken”** Ecclesiastes 4:12 by which today's believer should be constantly secured unto **“God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord”** as John reiterates:

“Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love” 2 John 3.

2. 1 Timothy 1:3-4. Paul charges Timothy and in turn today's believer to be one among **"...the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life..."** Philippians 2:15-16. Paul's charge is:

2.1. **"...abide still at Ephesus...charge some that they teach no other doctrine"** 1 Timothy 1:3:

Ephesus was a place of false doctrine against which **"the word of God"** won a great victory:

"And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed" Acts 19:17-20.

Paul therefore commissions Timothy to secure that victory as today's believer should be ready to **"Occupy till I come"** Luke 19:13 and who should aim to be like Timothy of whom Paul said **"For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state"** Philippians 2:20.

Paul's charge to Timothy for Ephesians and in turn for today's believer with respect to younger believers is that therefore they **"consent...to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness"** 1 Timothy 6:3.

2.2. **"Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying..."** 1 Timothy 1:4:

Such fables are **"cunningly devised fables"** that deny the witness of the apostles **"when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ"** 2 Peter 1:16. They include **"the oppositions of science falsely so called"** 1 Timothy 6:20 such as uniformitarian geologists and 'big banger' creationists whom Peter calls **"...scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation"** 2 Peter 3:3-4. See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Bang.

They will think differently at the Second Advent.

"And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 6:15-17.

"endless genealogies" would be a device used by anyone seeking to overthrow the priesthood of all believers of whom Peter states **"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ...But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light"** 1 Peter 2:5, 9.

That attempted overthrow was manifest in the early church in Jerusalem.

“But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses” Acts 15:5.

“And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present. And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry. And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law” Acts 21:18-20.

Those seeking to impose **“the law of Moses”** upon the body of Christ evidently perceived that they could do so best by attaining to the Levitical priesthood by means of genealogy, otherwise they would be excluded, as happened in Nehemiah’s time.

“These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood” Nehemiah 7:64.

That is why Paul warns about **“endless genealogies.”** It’s all about **“being lords over God’s heritage”** 1 Peter 5:3. Paul’s warning is appropriate for today’s believer because what was once done by endless genealogy is now done by endless ‘Greekiology’ giving rise to endless questioning and disputing about what God ‘really’ said according to **“...the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate”** and **“...the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate”** Revelation 2:6, 15, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself speaking.

See 47. *What About the Nuggets Found Only in the Greek?* samgipp.com/answerbook/.

See *Seven Aspects of ‘in the Greek’* www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/james-white-dr-divietro-and-dawaite.php.

Paul therefore exhorts now as then the same steadfast resistance to today’s endless *Greekiologists* as he did for early church endless *genealogists*.

“And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you” Galatians 2:4-5.

2.3. **“give heed to...godly edifying which is in faith: so do”** 1 Timothy 1:4:

Paul here exhorts Timothy as he does today’s believer as he has already exhorted the saints in Ephesus. Paul’s exhortation that 1 Timothy 1:4 summarises is for now as then **“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love”** Ephesians 4:14-16.

3. 1 Timothy 1:5-11. Paul here exhorts that **“...the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith”** Galatians 3:24 in that the Lord Jesus Christ **“...is charity out of a pure heart, and...a good conscience, and...faith unfeigned”** 1 Timothy 1:5 personified. Paul also warns against **“...unruly and vain talkers and deceivers...”** Titus 1:10 incapable of **“...rightly dividing the word of truth”** 2 Timothy 2:15 so that they cannot **“...discern both good and evil”** Hebrews 5:14.

- 3.1. **“...the end of the commandment...”** 1 Timothy 1:5 is **“Jesus Christ, and him crucified”** 1 Corinthians 2:2:

See opening remarks and note that those Christ-like qualities are only achievable when **“they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts”** Galatians 5:24. Then should come to pass for today’s believer now as then when Paul exhorted Timothy.

“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart” 2 Timothy 2:22 with **“always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men”** Acts 24:16. This is achievable through a prayer such as King David’s and King Solomon’s admonition.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me” Psalm 51:10.

“He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live” Proverbs 4:4.

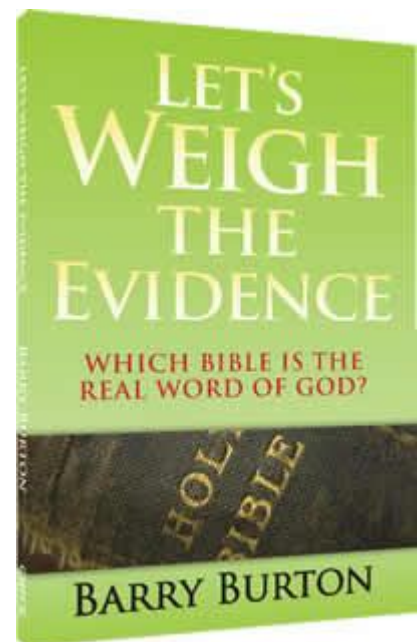
- 3.2. **“...some having swerved have turned aside...Desiring to be teachers of the law...”** 1 Timothy 6-7 but are **“men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth”** 1 Timothy 6:5:

Paul is here warning against false teachers that are still around today and have infiltrated the church as Peter warns e.g. with respect to endless *Greekiology*. See remarks under point 2.2.

See also www.chick.com/catalog/books/0184.asp *Let’s Weigh the Evidence* by Barry Burton pp 68, 93-94 and note this comment, emphases in source.

“The old dogmatic view of the Bible therefore, is not only open to attack from the standpoint of science and historical criticism, but if taken seriously it becomes a danger to religion and public morals” – F. J. A. Hort

Peter therefore warns as follows. **“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of”** 2 Peter 2:1-2.



3.3. ***“...the law is good, if a man use it lawfully...According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust”*** 1 Timothy 1:8-11:

“the law is good” because it is ***“the law of God”*** and should be proclaimed and explained publicly as such.

“So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading” Nehemiah 8:8.

Some men do not use the law lawfully, like lawyers whom the Lord rebuked.

“And he said, Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers” Luke 11:46.

Their counterparts today are the pretend scholars like Hort who deride ***“the scripture of truth”*** Daniel 10:21 as ***“The old dogmatic view of the Bible”*** and burden the believer with the task of fending for himself for what God ‘really’ said amongst a smorgasbord of versions etc. where ‘God’s word’ is perceived to be in there somewhere so that ***“the blind lead the blind”*** Matthew 15:14, Luke 6:39 and the situation is as Amos described for the End Times.

“And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it” Amos 8:12.

This writer has repeatedly witnessed three different versions, the 1984 NIV, NKJV, NLT clagged together for 1 Corinthians 11:24 in order hopefully to approximate ‘the original’ with the basis being the 1984 NIV but with ***“Take, eat”*** inserted from the NKJV and ***“given”*** from the NLT substituted for ***“broken.”***

That kind of DIY approach to ***“The words of the LORD”*** Psalm 12:6 is unlawful, Luke 11:46, 1 Timothy 1:8 and among ***“burdens grievous to be borne”*** by any individual genuinely aiming ***“to seek the word of the LORD”*** Amos 5:12.

Yet though ***“the law is good”*** because it is ***“the law of God”*** Nehemiah 8:8 ***“the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient”*** and all ***“that is contrary to sound doctrine”*** 1 Timothy 1:9, 10 as Paul shows explicitly. Paul lists eight specific evils that the Lord Jesus Christ described as ***“That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man...from within...out of the heart of man”*** Mark 7:20-21 and the law ensures ***“that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful”*** Romans 7:13.

Again though ***“the law is good”*** because it is ***“the law of God”*** Nehemiah 8:8, the law itself cannot change the heart. In King David’s case it took a prayer of desperation, see point 3.1 and Psalm 51:10, ***and consistent prayer*** so to do so that David could eventually say ***“I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart...Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart”*** Psalm 40:8, 119:34.

Today’s believer thankfully has the assurance of a new heart according to ***“sound doctrine; According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my charge”*** 1 Timothy 1:10-11. See www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ *The Ten Gospels – or Twelve* pp 7-10 for the full import of ***“the glorious gospel of the blessed God.”***

Today’s believer has a *new heart* because he has ***“a pure heart.”*** See point 3 and remarks concerning ***“a pure heart”*** 1 Timothy 1:5, 2 Timothy 2:22. He is therefore *enabled* as Paul and Peter exhort ***“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ”*** Galatians 6:2 ***“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently”*** 1 Peter 1:22.

4. 1 Timothy 1:12-16. Paul is here bearing testimony as he did elsewhere, Acts 22:1-21, 26:1-23, of having become “in Christ...a new creature” 2 Corinthians 5:17 and as he does explicitly to the Galatians.

“For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews’ religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: And profited in the Jews’ religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen...Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not. Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia; And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ: But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. And they glorified God in me” Galatians 1:13-16, 20-24.

Therefore after the manner of Acts 22:1-21, 26:1-23 today’s believer should have a testimony “in every good word and work” 2 Thessalonians 2:17 as Paul did and as Peter enjoins.

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ” 1 Peter 3:15-16.

That is why Paul exhorts Timothy as he does today’s believer. “Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God” 2 Timothy 1:8.

- 4.1. “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord...for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious...” 1 Timothy 1:12-13:

Like Paul, today’s believer should “thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me” 1 Timothy 1:12 for His enabling and His calling to minister, predicated on faithfulness in that “there be first a willing mind” 2 Corinthians 8:12 as Paul testifies to the Corinthians and to today’s believer.

“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place...For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ” 2 Corinthians 2:14, 17.

- 4.2. “And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus” 1 Timothy 1:14:

Like Paul, today’s believer should “thank Christ Jesus our Lord” in that though he too “was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious” 1 Timothy 1:13 one of “the enemies of the cross of Christ” Philippians 3:18 he was able to “obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” Hebrews 4:16 because “the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus” 1 Timothy 1:14 and for him “the times of this ignorance God winked at” Acts 17:30 as Peter summarises.

“For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls” 1 Peter 2:25.

- 4.3. *“...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy...”* 1 Timothy 1:15-16:

Paul’s declaration that *“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”* 1 Timothy 1:15 is so because the Lord Jesus Christ Himself declared what should be the preoccupation for today’s believer *“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost”* Luke 19:10. Today’s believer should therefore pray to meet those of whom the scripture says each is *“in his right mind”* Mark 5:15, Luke 8:35 acutely conscious of the Spirit of God’s reproof *“of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment”* John 16:8 and context for whom the disciples testify to the Lord that *“All men seek for thee”* Mark 1:37.

Paul shows spiritual growth in this passage in that he has testified successively *“For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God”* 1 Corinthians 15:9 then *“me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ”* Ephesians 3:8 and finally *“...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief”* 1 Timothy 1:15 i.e. no-one is therefore ineligible for the *“all longsuffering”* of the Lord Jesus Christ with respect *“to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting”* 1 Timothy 1:16. Paul, it should however be noted, never lost sight of his calling, 1 Corinthians 15:9, Ephesians 3:8, 1 Timothy 1:12, 16, his need for growth in grace notwithstanding, which is how the Lord Jesus Christ, Paul himself and Peter encourage and exhort today’s believer with respect to calling, itself by grace, to testify to *“life everlasting”* and growth in grace.

“And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak” John 12:50.

“Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” 2 Timothy 1:8-10.

“This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour” and thereby *“...grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen”* 2 Peter 3:1-2, 18.

5. 1 Timothy 1:17. Paul ascribes *“...unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God...honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen”* because it is the Lord Jesus Christ *not* ‘Greekiology’ points 2.2, 3:2 *“who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality...to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen”* 1 Timothy 6:15-16.
6. 1 Timothy 1:18-20. Paul here exhorts Timothy and all of today’s believers *“according to the prophecies...that thou by them mightest war a good warfare”* 1 Timothy 1:18 insofar as in prophecy *“all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children”* Isaiah 54:13 *“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day...Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked”* Ephesians 6:13, 16.

Finally *“fiery darts”* will afflict blasphemers and dissenters 1 Timothy 1:19, 20 because *“He ruleth by his power for ever...let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah”* Psalm 66:7.