

**1 Timothy
1:3-7**

“Love from a pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith”

I. Introduction

II. Vs. 3-4 Billion’s for bobbles

III. Vs. 5-7 A reason to love God more

I. Introduction

The 2nd part of a letter, for purpose of identification, is the statement of purpose or the reason for the letters essential writing. In this case we will find it in chapter 1 verses 3-7. Five years had elapsed from when Paul had personally warned the Ephesians elders that “*Savage wolves*” would come in and not spare the flock of God. The first chapter taken as a whole is Paul’s instruction to Timothy of what his work in Ephesus will involve which based upon the content was two things:

1. Vs. 1-7 Timothy was to stop some false teaching that was going around the Church, which in part centered on the Old Testament law.
2. Vs. 8-11 Second Timothy was to teach clearly the proper use of the Law of Moses in the Christian life.

This suggests the extreme value Paul and the early Church placed upon teaching in the church. The central task of the pastor is to “*feed the sheep*” entrusted to the pastor. Jesus didn’t instruct Peter to entertain the sheep, or to flees the flock He told him to feed and tend the flock of God. Paul expected those that taught to be consistent with apostolic revelation and the words of Jesus. In verse 11 Paul defines this as “*the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.*” The Church exists to declare the truth and anything that deviates from the truth must not be taught.

II. Vs. 3-4 Billion's for bobbles

Vs. 3 Paul employs a military term as “*urge*” means to give strict orders from a commanding officer and he will use this word 8 times in his two letters to Timothy.

Pastors must never forget that we are not hirelings of the church we serve we are servants under our Master the King of Kings as such we are called to pass on orders to our fellow soldiers. The order was plain “*Do not allow others to teach truth apart from the truth that Paul taught.*” Thirty two times in these pastoral letters “*doctrine, teach, teaches or teacher*” appears and it is clear by this that teaching the word of God to the people of God held the primary position within the church.

There are a lot of subjects that may interest us that we can engage in healthy debate but these must not be the subject of our time together. Paul doesn't call them heretics or blasphemers so that tells me that these were good men that had begun to introduce ideas that were derived from human philosophy, and man's opinions. In verse 6-7 it seems that at least some of these teaching were centered on wrong interpretations of the Old Testament that included “*fables and endless genealogies*”, verse 4. There can be differing gifts, subjects and styles among teachers but their must not be differing truths! The Word of God by the Spirit of God is the most powerful weapon the Christian has to correct error and deliver people from bondage to freedom. Timothy was sent by Paul to correct the weakness in the Church at Ephesus in biblical illiteracy! This was to be done two ways:

- a. Opposing the faulty teaching
- b. Pointing out why it was faulty...(fables, genealogies)

Vs. 4 “**Fables**” is where we get our English word myths from and it means *an invention, a fiction or falsehood, something without historical reality.* The genealogies that Paul

refers to were not just the ones found in our Bibles but ones that had been added onto with additional tales and allegorical interpretations to which Paul calls them endless because they led to no truth or conclusions. These fables didn't further saving grace instead they distracted people from it as people chased after people's pet fancy and speculations. A few years back there was the "*Bible Code*" that interpreted the Old Testament based upon the contention that it contained mathematical formulas that a newly discovered code could be used to unlock with a computer. The formula was said to enabled a person to discover biblical prophecies for 3000 years. Dr. Elijah Rips claimed that "*Everything from the Holocaust to Hiroshima, from the moon landing to the collision of a comet with Jupiter*" was in these codes. *So people went out and bought his book and spent time reading it looking into the codes of past historical events he claimed his code pointed to **and no time into applying the truths of the Bible for their own lives.***

Notice having said this that Paul uses the word "**rather**" which is a word that is meant to contrast the things that only lead to disputes with that which would be leading us into "*godly edification which is in faith*". Saint's **all teaching should lead us into three things: a greater understanding into the character and nature of God, a greater awareness of who we really are as God sees us and finally we ought to be attuned to how God is moving us closer to Himself and away from our flesh!** Far too often the church has **spent too much time on topics that trigger the imagination while neglecting the word of God that transforms the heart.** The world is in desperate need of people who have had and are continuing to have **transformational encounters with the Word of God.**

There are two truths that are essential for Christians to know and apply:

1. *The end of our former life*: This is best seen in Christ's death for our sin and reminds us that we too have died to our former life. Our natural fallen state no

longer has power over us; we have been delivered from its dominance because we have died.

2. *The beginning of our new life*: This is best seen in the resurrection of Christ where we live a new empowered victorious life. We also take on a new identity as well as a new sufficiency.

These two truths are the cornerstone of our faith and together make up the New

Covenant: *Jesus died that we might live; we die that He might live through us!* It was this

truth that caused Paul to write down in Corinthians, “*If any man be in Christ he is a new creation, old things have passed away, behold all things become new.*” To the Ephesians

he wrote to “*put off the old man, concerning your former conduct....be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man which was created according to God.*”

finally to the Romans Paul wrote that we are “*to consider ourselves dead unto sin and alive unto God.*” The teachers Timothy was sent to correct were spending time on

teaching that did nothing but cause folks to argue. These false teachers had gone after novelties instead of the meat of the word and the outcome was that the church was

becoming less in the areas of “*love from a pure heart, love from a good conscience and love from a sincere faith*” and more known for giving heed to fable’s and endless

genealogies that only led to disputes and divisions.

III. Vs. 5-7 A reason to love God more

Vs. 5 It is abundantly clear from this passage that *the purpose of the gospel is to alter the way we live, not to provide us with philosophical trivia.* It is easier to share with

people our view of predestination and free will then it is to share with someone

personally how God is causing your life to be more of Him and less of you. That ought to

illustrate for us what is the weightier matters and what is mere idle discussions. You can

always tell if the word of God is having an effect on you because if it is you will become

more compassionate, patient and tenderhearted towards those you are around. You can’t

legislate love, you can't make people love their enemies....this is the fundamental fallacy with Islam as a religion you cannot force someone to love anything be fear and intimidation, they will comply but they will not love! Love is fundamentally a choice that is wooed by love to love as well. **Love comes from a dynamic triple inner work:**

1. **From the heart:** Paul describes that as coming from a "*pure heart*" The purity of one's devotion to God will be seen in a person's love towards others. Love always begins from a pure heart because our action of love comes from His action of love which produced our pure heart.
2. **In the conscience:** Paul describes love that comes out of a person's inner awareness of the quality and character of a person's own actions and attitude. The word "conscience" appears 6 times in Paul pastoral letters and means to "*know with*" which refers to inner judge that accuses us when we have done wrong and approves us when we have done right.
3. **From sincere faith:** Litteraly a faith without hypocrisy, love that comes not out of words but out of action. Finally love from a sincere faith our actions are a constant circle back to His action...we love Him because He first loved us.

Vs. 6-7 Amazingly these false teachers were not folks who had never heard the truth but rather they were people who had received and believed the truth but had since "*strayed and turned aside to idle talk*". At times Christians get board of the simplicity of God's love and chase after the "*higher hanging fruit*" of speculation and other minor aspects of the bible like how many angles can fit on the head of a pin. *These believers had become biblical vagabonds' wondering around from speculation to human philosophy moving with the popular fads; defending their fanciful position at each turn.* You see them today in churches that like bird migration seem to migrate from one church to another following the numbers in search of what's exciting and entertaining! The fads don't have to be false they just have to excite the flutter of wings for birds of a feather to fly off just to see where the others are flying too. Sometimes a church can be the place where these birds fly too but most of the times they become a tree of empty branches. This sad truth becomes all the more disturbing when this flight pattern is called "*church growth*"

instead of sheep switching pastures. **In the landscape of Western Evangelicalism churches are spending more time trying to attract other birds than they are reaching the lost!**

Popularity becomes the driving ambition of those that have wandered away from the simplicity of the gospel. They desire to be famous known as “*teachers of the law*” and soon “*ambition and pride*” instead of “*love and humility*” define their character. With regards to truth: *A virtuous person may be ignorant, but ignorance is never a virtue. Love of God is not the same as knowledge of God; but if a person loves God knowing little about Him, they will love God more knowing more from knowing more about Him. **Every new thing known about God is a new reason for loving Him.***