

**1 Timothy**  
**A.) The Church and its message**  
**1. 1:8-11 The message in the past**  
**1:8-9**  
**“Laying down the Law”**

**I. Introduction**

**II. Vs. 8-9 I’m not okay, and neither are you**

**I. Introduction**

One of the difficulties of teaching “*verse by verse*” though the Bible is at times it is very difficult to divide the passage to fit into the time constraints of two services. How much can I cram in to the time I have and still give it the importance needed? I had just that dilemma this week and as I was studying on *the purpose of the 10 commandments in the life of the believer.* I decided that it was too important to take verses 8-11 as I had too much material even after editing my notes. Thus we will be looking at this important section for the next two weeks instead of the one that I originally attended. Clearly part of the teaching that was causing disputes was the miss understanding of the Old Testament Law so in verses 8-11 Paul wants to set the record straight with regards to the place that the Law of Moses has in the Christian life.

Paul is writing and warning Timothy about *misdirection* in teaching that left unchecked would cause a decline of biblical maturity in believers and through that a decline in the work of Christ in the world. Paul had defined biblical maturity for us in chapter 1 verses 4-5 by revealing to us two important things: **What biblical teaching is** and **What biblical teaching produces:**

- A. **Vs. 4 What biblical teaching is:** That which builds up the individual believer into more and more the image of God by trusting in Him. As I said in my rabbit trail

last week it involves two specific teachings best seen in two works of Christ: His death and His resurrection! Biblical teaching must have these two exhortations: Jesus died that we might live, therefore we die to self-centeredness that He may life through us!

- B. **Vs. 5 What biblical teaching produces:** We will know that is taking place when LOVE is manifested in our lives by way of a threefold manifestation of this LOVE from: A pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith.

**I believe that these standards of biblical maturity is how Jesus plans to build His church.** Looking at Jesus' original blueprint when compared to what we now see has been built leads me to **SIX conclusions:**

- Because Jesus' plan requires for the individual believer to “*die daily*” to self-centeredness, many in the evangelical world have sought to redefine church maturity based upon things that they can manipulate like “*nickels and noses*”.
- This has led to Church leaders having to redefine success and changed the aim of the great commission in Matthew 28:19 from “*making disciples of all nations*” to “*making decisions of all nations*”. No doubt this has happened because in large part the evangelist has found that getting a person to profess Jesus is far easier than getting people to “*observe ALL things that Jesus commanded*”.
- This redefining has left the evangelical church in ruins as our outreach is primarily towards those who are in church just not the same one that we are a part of. It has also made the individual believer more self-centered as Jesus' transformation of them is not the aim.

- Since that is no longer the aim, the reason for attending church had to change from transformation to information at best or entertainment at worst!
- This in turn has produced a church that has become a band of **spectators** instead of **participants** that like the old “*Burger King*” ads are coming to church to “*have it their way*” instead of “*being transformed*” into folks who desire that their lives would be all about Jesus’ having His way in us! The individual believer “*goes to church*” instead of realizing that they “*are the church*”!
- Finally of even greater concern is the obvious idolatry of this kind of redefinition of church; since the mission of Christ has been changed, so too has the focus of the Church as the “*Church*” is on the throne instead of “*Jesus*”. This is seen when people identify more with the church they attend, servant they listen to or denomination they belong too. The focus is all about getting people more dependent upon the church instead of closer to Jesus. The church’s main focus has become their own relevance and becomes all about creating a mission statement and programs that get people to “Go to church” instead of fulfilling the great commission of Matthew 28 of the Church going to the world and making disciples!

**The obvious question is:** “*What does this have to do with some in the church of Ephesus where Timothy was pastoring emphasizing the Old Testament Law of Moses through its teaching in the church?*” The answer to that question is Paul’s subject in these verses before us. The Law of Moses as a basis of right standing before God takes the emphasis off of **internal personal transformation** and on too **external compliance** as the basis of our right standing before God. And that **external compliance is subjective** as we are free

to define it one way for us and another way for someone else! The Church and individual believer then becomes all about “**DOING RIGHT**” instead of the work of Christ in causing them to “**BE RIGHT**”. The Church ends up looking like the description that Paul gave Timothy in his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter in chapter 3, verse 5 where he said that they “*have a form of godliness, but deny its power*”. That apparently was the problem with the church at Ephesus and the reason why he sent Timothy to correct the condition. Paul makes **four statements about the Law of Moses** in verses 8-11, the first two we will deal with today the following two next week.

1. Vs. 8 “*The law is good if one uses it lawfully*”.
2. Vs. 9a “*The law is not made for the righteous person*”.
3. Vs. 9b-10 “*The law is for the ungodly and insubordinate*”.
4. Vs. 11 “*The law is according to the glorious gospel*”.

## **II. Vs. 8-9 I’m not okay, and neither are you**

Vs. 8 **First**: “*The law is good if one uses it lawfully*”. This immediately does two things:

- First, it does away with the thoughts of some Christians that as believers we are completely delivered from anything to do with the Law of Moses or the 10 commandments.
- Second, it clarifies the problem with the Law of Moses as being that people don’t use it “*lawfully*”.

The reason why the Law of Moses is good is because God himself gave it. Neither Moses nor Charlton Heston wrote them, they were twice written by the hand of God. As you

study those commandments you realize that they reflect the character of God as well as His ideal of how His creation of mankind should behave in His creation. They represent God's righteous demands for all human behavior. Paul's words that he wrote to the Romans years earlier in chapter 7 verse 6 where he said that the Christian has been "*delivered from the Law*" does not mean that the Law has no use in the Christian life as Jesus indicated in His sermon of the Mount that "*He had not come to abolish the law... but to fulfill it.*" The problem with the Law has nothing to do with the Law and everything to do with what it has to work with... you and me. And as it relates to Paul's words to Timothy its miss use! The person has no right to complain to the computer manufacture that their computer is not functioning properly when they are not using it for its proper use and instead are using it as a garbage disposal!

Vs. 9a **Second**: "*The law is not made for the righteous person*". Here Paul defines for us the proper use of the Law of Moses by saying that "*it is not made for the righteous person*". Its usefulness has to do with the "*unrighteous person*" which he will outline in three pairs of two groups for which the Law of Moses is useful also in verse 9:

- "*The lawless and insubordinate*"
- "*The ungodly and for sinners*"
- "*The unholy and profane*"

In Paul's threefold pairs he clearly wants Timothy and us to understand that the law still has a lawful usefulness in the Christian's life but that usefulness has **nothing to do with** "*making a Christian right before God*". Trusting in Jesus' work on the cross is the only thing that can make a person right with God. That is exactly what Paul had written to the

Romans years earlier in chapter 8 verse 3 what he said, *“For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh.”* The Law of Moses has a righteous standard that insists that humanity lives in accordance with that standard so that humanity can function up to the full potential of His design. When we fail to live up to our Makers design we *“miss His mark”* which is the meaning of the word *“sinners”*. When we *“miss the mark”* we simply receive Jesus finished work on our behalf and instantly become those who have been made right because of Jesus work. That is what Paul wrote to the church at Corinth in his 2<sup>nd</sup> letter saying, *“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new.”* ***We are no longer under the Law of Moses as a basis of winning approval from God because He has made us acceptable in the beloved!***

Contrary to the popular philosophy of today; *“I’m not okay, and neither are you!”* we are both in desperate need of a savior. The basic use of the law is to restrain wickedness!