

The Solid Gospel > 1 Timothy 1:1-11

1:1-2 The Lord's encouragement for those who serve Him: don't gloss over these words – they are given by Paul from the Lord to encourage and strengthen Timothy.

1:3-7 The difference between those who hold firmly to the Lord and those who do not: the reason that Timothy will need such strength is because of the divisions that were erupting among some in the Ephesian church. Let there be no misunderstanding: there is a world of difference between teaching that is sound and teaching which is not. God's people are not to give their attention to speculation or anything else that would distract them from the aim of their faith: Christ-like love as defined by the Scriptures.

1:8-11 The law is good, but only when used correctly: though some in Ephesus thought themselves to be faithful teachers of God's law, instead the opposite was true. They sought to apply it in ways that weren't faithful or true to the Scriptures, whereas Paul writes to show how God's law is meant as a correction to those who need Christ's grace.

Context: Paul writes to Timothy, who has stayed behind to correct and strengthen the Ephesian church.

Aim: The church is in great need of sound teaching that points to Jesus rather than to anything or anyone else.

Gospel: Disciples of Jesus aren't marked by legalism, superstitions, or any other "ism." Instead, we are marked by how our Savior has loved us and calls us to love in response.

Application: Is your faith characterized by Christ's love?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
