

I Timothy Sermon #2

Turn with me again tonight to I Timothy, Chapter 1

Last week we began this series

We looked at Timothy – the person and the pastor

He was a veteran of how many years in the ministry? 15

And this was his what number? pastorate! 4th

I've entitled tonight's message "Introduction to I Timothy"

I Timothy 1:1

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

I Timothy 1:1-4

Let us pray

You may be seated

Introduction to I Timothy

What was Timothy doing in Ephesus?

There are two verses that tell us – they will also give us the purpose and the theme for this book!

I Timothy 1:3-4 – purpose of this book

Vs. 3a, 4e

“So do” is in italics, but it is implied in the text

What was the charge to Timothy?

“Charge” means “to give strict orders from a superior officer.”

★The charge was to stay at Ephesus and preach healthy doctrine

And it is interesting because we can divide this whole book of Timothy into two sections

Chapter 1 – the need for sound preaching/teaching/doctrine

Beginning Chapter 2-6 – there we have the sound doctrines that Timothy is to teach

2:1 – first of all – from this point on – Paul gives the sound doctrines of church ministry

Why does Timothy teach these sound doctrines?

I Timothy 3:14-15 – the theme

I Timothy 3:15 – key verse

This book was written in order to give Timothy the doctrine needed for church conduct

Let's put those two references together

The theme of I Timothy: Sound doctrine for church conduct r

Healthy teaching for church conduct/behavior

This book was written to communicate those sound teachings to us and Timothy was the man/the pastor that was given the charge to do it.

What is a pastor for? People have all kinds of ideas about that?

Visiting/socializing, counseling, administrating, marrying, and burying?

All of those things are part of the preacher's responsibility

But the pastor is first and foremost to preach – that is why Paul left Timothy in Ephesus – to ensure sound doctrine is administered – so as to guide the church

To sum up a pastor's ministry: He is to shepherd his people

How does a pastor do that?

What part of you does the pastor shepherd? your work, home

What does he shepherd/pastor? your mind

So that it is transformed to the ministry of this book and that affects your conduct at work and at home

That is the primary responsibility of the preacher

What was Timothy to do?

To shepherd conduct by preaching sound doctrine

That was Timothy's charge

To keep preaching the Word as his priority

The church began with a great sermon

God's people need the Bread of God to fill their souls

Too many of God's people are starved for the Word/Truth

The pastor must be committed/determined and purpose to deliver the truth for God's people!

There are plenty of other responsibilities, but the primary task is to preach the Word!

These three books make no reference to visiting – only one time in the New Testament
 are we told to do this (James 1:27) and the church people are told to do it
 Everybody's responsibility – James 1 – visit fatherless and widows in their affliction
 These three books say very little about counseling and a whole lot about preaching!

I Timothy 4:13, 15, 16

II Timothy 2:2; 4:1, 2

In the original text there are thirty-two references to “doctrine” or “teaching” in the three
 Pastoral Epistles. . . . the believers were to be taught the Word of God and the
 meanings of basic Christian doctrines.

And Timothy is encouraged to be the preacher/teacher/refuter

What is it that encourages a pastor to do this kind of work?

I want to call your attention to Chapter 1, verses 1-2

Greeting/salutations are pretty common/general, but there are two things in this greeting
 that are peculiar to I Timothy.

#1 – grace and peace – mercy – all churches need mercy

Let me show you:

Vs. 1 – “by the commandment” is one

Only found in two epistles – I Timothy and Titus – both written to pastors

Encouragement to recognize God's structure of authority

No one is called to shepherd God's people by his own authority

Some people think a man is called into the ministry because he is kind/nice/good with
 people – speaks well

God does not call people in the ministry based on these things

Not by invitation but by conviction in his heart that there is nothing else he can do and
be right with God – but be in the ministry

Paul had a direct charge from God the Father and Jesus Christ to carry out his ministry.
This word refers to a royal command that is not negotiable, but mandatory.

“There was a time when He *commanded* me to be an apostle.”

Paul was a soldier under orders, and by commandment—not by commission, but
by commandment.

Jeremiah had this same kind of authority

He stepped out and gave some of the strongest statements that ever came from God.
Why could he do that? He was a soldier under orders—under orders from God.

Any man who is going to speak for God today needs to do it with authority or he ought
to keep quiet.

“Jesus Christ our Lord” (vs. 2)

Anything that is done in the local church needs to be done in the name of Christ and at
His command.

He is the Head of the church; He is the Lord.

The Lord Jesus said, (Johnson paraphrase) “Don’t call Me Lord, Lord, unless you’re
going to do things I say.”

We need not only to *call* Him Lord but also *obey* Him as Lord.

Now, Timothy – I am the Apostle – you’re the Pastor

God has called you and commanded you

Now, pull up your bootstraps – you preach/teach/rebuke/refute and give that church
sound teaching so that they can be healthy people of God.

Let us stand for closing invitation