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Lessons from the **Book of 1 Timothy**

By Ken Raggio

An Apostle By The Commandment Of God

We have lived to see the Church virtually taken over by laity. A typical Church may have a dozen "leaders" on the platform. The difference in a laity-led Church and a true Church is that God intended it to be led by called, chosen, anointed and ordained ministers of the Gospel; by holy men who have mastery of the word of God and who speak authoritatively with doctrinal integrity and the very highest standards of godliness. God commanded Paul to do the work of an apostle.

1 Timothy 1:1 - "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God."

Timothy, My Own Son In The Faith

God has no grandchildren. Every born-again believer is a first-generation, true-born child of God, born of the Spirit of God. But on earth, the Church is the womb of God. God conceives children in the Church. The Church is the mother of all the saints. "Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all," Galatians 4:26. "Jerusalem which is above" refers to all the saints who have already died and gone to heaven.

1 Timothy 1:1-2 - "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ ...Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith."

Charge Them To Teach No Other Doctrine

At the first, Paul spent about three years establishing the Church at

Ephesus. Almost ten years later, he and Timothy returned there to find that many false doctrines were infiltrating the Ephesian Church. Paul needed to go into Macedonia, so he left Timothy in Ephesus, "that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine." It can happen in any church. In ten years, a parade of different voices can infiltrate a congregation and spoil it. May God give us Apostolic elders who can enforce doctrinal integrity.

1 Timothy 1:4 - "Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies."

The End Of The Commandment Is Love

Moses taught Israel, "Thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might," Deuteronomy 6:5. In Matthew 22, a lawyer asked Jesus, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." The first, last and highest of all laws? "Love God!"

1 Timothy 1:5 - "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned."

I Thank Christ Jesus For Putting Me Into The Ministry

No matter how far God raises you from your sinful past, it is hard to forget where you really came from. Paul admitted that he had been "a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief." He rejoiced that the grace of God had been "exceeding abundant." Your awful past need not hinder God. He can save to the uttermost. Thank Him for redeeming you.

1 Timothy 1:12 - "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry."

Unto The King Eternal Be Honor And Glory Forever

As Paul remembered how evil he had once been, he declared that God had saved him as a lesson to other gross sinners. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. 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." Jesus will save the vilest sinner. He deserves all glory!

1 Timothy 1:17 - "Unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

I Charge You According To Prophecies You Received

Three times in this chapter, Paul used the word "charge" (Greek: paraggello, or paraggellia). A CHARGE is a mandate, a command, and specifically in this case, a message from God delivered by the man of God. "Charge some that they teach no other doctrine," "The end of the commandment [charge - same root] is charity..." and this charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy." Paul acknowledged the divine mandate behind his message and doctrine. Our message is not our own, but God's.

1 Timothy 1:18 - "...according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare."

Hymenaeus, Alexander, Shipwreck Concerning Faith

Saul was a blasphemer, persecutor, and a chief of sinners, but obtained saving mercy, "that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him." Divine grace abounds for those who will believe. Paul told Timothy to "war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck." Without faith, it is impossible to please God.

1 Timothy 1:20 - "Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme."

Pray For Everyone, Even Kings And Rulers

Paul exhorted Timothy "that, ...supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God." God said, "I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land," Ezekiel 22:30. Will YOU?

1 Timothy 2:4 - "[God] will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

One Mediator Between God And Men, The Man Christ

"Emmanuel" means "God with us," (Matthew 1:23). "God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself," 2 Corinthians 5:19. The eternal Spirit incarnated Himself in His only begotten man-child, Jesus. Jesus was the invisible God wrapped in the body of a man. If we had never seen Christ, we could never have seen God - because He is invisible. "God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him," 1 John 4:9.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 - "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all."

Lift Up Holy Hands And Pray Everywhere

Jesus Christ is the mediator between God and men. "He gave Himself a ransom for all." That is the message that Paul was ordained to preach, and the reason why he was called to be an Apostle and a teacher of faith and "verity" (truth). The message of truth demands consecration from its ministers. Paul considered both the message and the ministry to be sacred, and called for all men to live holy, prayerful lives, free of anger and unbelief.

1 Timothy 2:8 - "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."

A Woman's Modest Apparel

This generation argues that anything other than outright nudity is acceptable. But women professing godliness must wear "modest apparel." MODEST means "orderly, of good behavior, decorous," (Greek "koismos"). Decorum is "dignified propriety in conduct, manners, appearance and character." There is no dignity in unnecessarily exposing flesh, or inciting lust. Moreover, "costly [lavish, extravagant] array," (v9) is not modest. "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, ...for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD," Deuteronomy 22:5. Godly women dress in modest, dignified, non-extravagant, feminine (not masculine) clothes.

1 Timothy 2:9 - "...women adorn themselves in modest apparel."

A Shamefaced And Sober Woman

Along with her modest clothes, Paul said that a godly woman should adorn herself with "shamefacedness" and sobriety. The word shamefaced is derived from a Greek word which means "to look down." The inference is that she should not have seductive eyes. She should be sober-minded. Never in the history of the Apostolic Church have women been as painted, bejeweled, flamboyant, skimpily dressed, and perceived as "sexy" and "attractive" as many now are. The Apostle Paul's teachings must certainly have been intended to forbid such practices.

1 Timothy 2:9 - "That women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety."

Broided Hair

In his instructions about modest apparel on women, Paul censured broided hair. 1 Peter 3:3 also forbids "plaiting the hair." Barnes' commentary explains: "plaited ...ornamented with spangles or silver wire or tissue," adding, "It cannot be supposed that the mere braiding of the hair is forbidden, but only that careful attention to the manner of doing it, and to the ornaments usually worn in it, which characterized worldly females." Evidence abounds that ancient women in Egypt, Greece, Rome, Persia, and other nations often plaited their hair with gold, silver and various ornaments. That practice is ungodly.

1 Timothy 2:9 - "Not with broided hair"

Gold, Pearls, Costly Array

Modern Christians just don't get it. They paint and decorate their flesh to look more appealing and enticing, when God has said, in virtually every New Testament precept and principle, that born-again believers must crucify the flesh, deny its lusts, subdue the carnal mind, love not the world and be spiritually-minded instead. [Wearing ornaments and jewelry](#) grossly contradicts the entire premise of modesty, death to self, and godliness.

1 Timothy 2:9-10 - "...women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."

Let The Woman Learn In Silence With All Subjection

Paul addressed this matter in 1 Corinthians 14. "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church." [Women are subject to men in the Church](#).

1 Timothy 2:11-12 - "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."

Desiring The Office Of A Bishop

Prayer and desire are more than companions. Prayer and desire are very nearly the same thing. God knows the desires of your heart, and knows what you need before you ask. If you desire to be in the ministry, especially if you are praying for a place in the ministry, such as a Bishop or Pastor, Paul said that you are desiring or praying for a good work. Pray the prayer. God will answer according to His will.

1 Timothy 3:1 - "This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work."

Seducing Spirits Will Deceive Many In The Last Days

First, God is the Father of all spirits. Second, His holy angels are ministering spirits. Third, humans have spirits. Fourthly, fallen angels - those who sinned - are devils, or unclean spirits. Lying devils work continuously in these last days to seduce saints of God into false religions and beliefs. Lying spirits work through every person who does not genuinely love Truth. You must tenaciously adhere to the pure Word of God. Recognize and repudiate seducing spirits.

1 Timothy 4:1 - "The Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils."

Doctrines Of Devils, And A Seared Conscience

In the last days, many are departing from the faith because they are influenced by seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. What doctrines do devils teach? "Speaking lies in hypocrisy." LIES! The most popular preaching nowadays is NOT biblical! Hypocrisy (phony spirituality) is the order of the day. Satan said to Eve, "Hath God said...?" Ancient truth is being subverted in pulpits everywhere. Men have no conscience, no conviction against their lies. Multitudes are going to hell because of it.

1 Timothy 4:1-2 - "...seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron."

Sanctify Your Food By Thanksgiving And Prayer

The Old Testament law listed many animals that were not to be eaten, because they were called unclean. However, Paul taught us that we no longer have to observe those restrictions in the New Testament. "Every creature ...is good." Give thanks, and bless it in Jesus' name.

1 Timothy 4:3-5 - "Commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer."

Honor Prayerful Widows Who Trust God

Paul instructed the saints to intreat the elder women as mothers, younger women as sisters, and honor the widows. But He qualified the widows that the Church should care for. "She that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day." Paul did not ask the Church to be burdened with widows who were worldly, and not attempting to live godly. We should look after those who are in need, who trust in God and live prayerfully.

1 Timothy 5:6 - "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth."

Contentment

Can you be happy just living a godly life, or are you addicted to the world's sugar-coated poisons? Do you find that God, Church, and the Bible do not satisfy you, or furnish a level of excitement you have come to expect? Contentment is "a perfect condition of life in which no aid or support is needed." No aid or support needed? Are you addicted to entertainment, recreation, sports, or anything else? If you are bored with God, you are in big trouble.

1 Timothy 6:6 - "But godliness with contentment is great gain."

The Only Potentate

A king is said to be sovereign, autonomous, controlled by no one. Truthfully, no earthly king is sovereign so long as Almighty God is in His heaven. There is only one Sovereign Potentate and that is the Lord God Himself. He can be seen incarnate in the body of His human son, Jesus Christ. Is this true? Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and earth."

1 Timothy 6:15 - "Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords."

Bible-Bashing

Civilization is gangrenous with Bible-bashing. "Scientific" discoveries froth with conjecture and opinion "refuting" Bible story after Bible story. Darwin's "Origin of the Species," the theory of evolution, History Channel "documentaries", even ACLU lawsuits, and volumes and volumes of published but unproven opinions and theories are being peddled brazenly in the name of scientific fact. But if you tamper with even one story in the Bible, beware! There are many hundreds of others that will never be explained away.

1 Timothy 6:20 - "...avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called."

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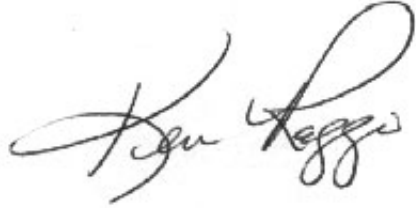
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