Give Me Truth Not Speculation February 4, 2024

*1 Timothy 1:1-11 Series: How the Church Falls off the Rails*

It would be a strange God who could be loved better by being known less. – Kent Hughes

Intro: Ideas can destroy lives

1. Fluff and human opinion destroy the church
2. There are some things we can’t be casual about

v. 1 *an apostle of Christ Jesus*

v. 1 *by command of God*

v. 2 *my true child in the faith*

1. People’s lives are at stake

1 Timothy 1:19 *some have made shipwreck of their faith …*

1 Timothy 5:15 *For some have already strayed after Satan.*

1. Human ideas have no place in the pulpit

v. 3 *charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine*

v. 4 *nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations*

v. 6 *Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion …*

v. 7 *desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions*

Acts 20:29-30 *from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.*

1 Timothy 6:20-21 *Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,” for by professing it some have swerved from the faith.*

* Why might myths and genealogies have become popular among the believers at Ephesus?
* What are some human ideas that you have seen influence the church even though they have no basis in Scripture?
* How can you tell whether a sermon is mostly about the pastor’s opinion rather than the Bible?

1. The law can convict the complacent
2. Lawless people can be convicted by the law

v. 8 *we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully*

v. 9 *the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless*

1. Human opinion justifies what God’s Word forbids

vv. 9-10 *the law is … for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers*

Luke Timothy Johnson: I think it important to state clearly that we do, in fact, reject the straightforward commands of Scripture, and appeal instead to another authority when we declare that same-sex unions can be holy and good. And what exactly is that authority? We appeal explicitly to the weight of our own experience and the experience thousands of others have witnessed to, which tells us that to claim our own sexual orientation is in fact to accept the way in which God has created us.

* While the law pointed to the Gospel it was dominated by rules that spelled out God’s moral standards under the old covenant. Why are these more useful for unbelievers than believers?
* How does a de-emphasis on the Bible in preaching lead to an increase in the acceptance of things the Bible calls sin?
* How can you avoid resting on experience in making decisions?

1. Only the gospel can transform the convicted
2. Once you’re convicted, more rules aren’t the answer

v. 9 *understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just*

1. The gospel is kryptonite to Satan

v. 4 *rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith*

v. 5 *The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*

v. 11 *in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted*

Hebrews 13:9 *Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.*

* How can the gospel transform you in a way that rules can’t?
* What does it mean that *“it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace”*? How does that work?
* How should the law and the gospel function in parenting?
* If I develop love for God and others from “a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith,” what does that teach me about what I should do to grow in love?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study 1 Timothy 1:12-20.

Notes