

1Tim 23-09-10a

Good morning, welcome to Sunday morning services at Grace and Truth Bible Church We continue our study in the book of 1st Timothy. We have finished Chapter 1 and we're on the threshold of chapter 2 let's take a moment to ask God's blessing on our fellowship on our time of investigation and exhortation from God's Word Father we are so grateful for another opportunity to spend this time together to have the chance to spend time in Fellowship and edification and conversation and enjoy the unity and the like-mindedness that the Apostle Paul is Describing for Timothy in this great book We pray that as we look at it together your Holy Spirit will be our teacher help us to understand it and see its pertinence and its application both in our current day of Enjoying friendship and fellowship and in the days ahead as we interact with Fellow believers and with the outside world we pray that in all things the Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified and we ask it in His name Amen first Timothy You will remember in this first chapter that Paul is writing To describe for Timothy and for his group Knowing that this letter would not only be read by Timothy but be read to the group in Ephesus that it is a description of what a healthy church should and should not do and it begins with the most important foundation stone both for church life and for our personal life and that is sound doctrine the first and most important characteristic for Individual believers and a group of believers whether it is the ecclesia church proper or whether it is family is Understanding God's truth having it understanding it seeing its Applicability and then applying it we was having a discussion with Elizabeth a day or two ago about a Bible study where they were talking about knowing the truth knowing the scriptures knowing God's Word and they were talking about the Greek verb ginosco and That ginosco meant to have intimate knowledge to have a a close relationship as in a marriage and I had the chance to explain that that's not really true and Many of you all will remember from teaching in the past that there is a distinction between Gnosis gnos is and epi gnosis Epi I was thinking about this yesterday as I was being stung by a swarm of bees You know a certain point you have to go look for an epi pen epinephrine and so on but the the Epi the epicenter of an earthquake epi means Right on it you're on top of it You're you've got a hold of it and the difference between gnosis and epi gnosis gnosis, of course is where we get all kinds of words related to knowledge, but That is the practical Experiential rubber meets the road kind of knowledge you can know the scriptures Jesus talks about the Pharisees knowing Certain things but it isn't it doesn't have traction in terms of getting them down the spiritual road so this truth this Foundation of truth is the first thing Paul mentions and the immediate threat the first satanic attack the first human sinful nature attack on an individual Christian life a Christian relationship relationships between Christians whether it's church family marriage friendship co-workers any Contact we have with one another is ecclesia. It is more than one believer in contact that's ecclesia and The attack on it is to undermine its foundation Nothing worse for a house or a building than to have foundation problems It affects everything above it things crack they stick they break they leak There are no end of problems if and when you have foundation issues so the foundation of the truth is the first thing to look at if we have relationship issues if there starts to be conflict or friction or Difficulty I'm having a hard

time maintaining Patience or people are having a hard time maintaining patience with me because I am the problem We have met the enemy and he is me Look to the Foundation which is God's truth in some way shape or form One or more of us have gotten off of that foundation or have let that foundation shift and crack and dissolve So Paul says I urged you Remain in Ephesus by the way there were false teachers there were people sparking division and contention and debate and defugal T and I love what Paul says to Timothy stick stay Defend the hill Remain in Ephesus.

He doesn't say well Timothy I heard that there's so many people teaching false doctrine and they're splitting up the group and it just sounds like a bad time I think you ought to leave and Rejoin me in Macedonia. He says remain in Ephesus you stay there and defend the truth that is the object of faith remain in Ephesus and Fight false doctrine Stop the guys that are trying to teach it in your group. You have the authority.

I have just mentioned my apostolic authority I'm mentioning the charge as an apostle that I'm giving to you later on. He's going to mention the gift that was Recognized as coming from God by the elders that laid hands on him. Timothy is an authorized Person to Say what does and does not happen in the church and Paul says you stay there and you defend the truth charge these ones that they teach no other doctrine and Those are the sources and also exhort the people that they don't listen to those sources.

It's a two-pronged attack Confront its source and charge them that they stop teaching that in your group. You want to teach that go somewhere else Don't divide this group Dr. Krizzle gave a very famous address to the Southern Baptists back in the 1980s and He Has a quote these liberals that were infiltrating the Southern Baptist Convention Had renamed themselves moderates, we're just moderates and he went on to say, you know a skunk by any other name still stinks and he was addressing this corruption and compromise of Basic Bible doctrines that at that time were central in the Southern Baptist faith and message people were coming in attacking inspiration of scripture and so on and he Confronted in that in his church and in that denomination False teaching that was coming in and compromising and undermining biblical truth. That's what Paul tells Timothy to do Confront its source and exhort those who might listen to it that they listen to no other doctrine Do not give heed to fables and endless genealogies and we have seen that these genealogies look at human derivations human connections based on ethnicity or based on Ancestry at that time and people were grouping together for some other reason than we are fellow Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are brothers and sisters in his body That is the source and the basis of our connection We are first and foremost related in Christ and through Christ to God the Father That is the bond of unity That is where the spirit of peace operates and anytime you start seeing disunity and and splitting apart People say well, it's this issue.

This person made a bad decision or I spoke something I shouldn't have and now there's there's a Elephant in the room and and there there are these problems It is so helpful. I think to hear Paul talking about what Christian unity is Where its power comes from once we end up with some sort

of conflict There is an issue that is looming and is behind even when you're trying to have a civil conversation you're trying to be pleasant you're trying to Forgive things in the past or be forgiven for things in the past and there's this looming dark presence that threatens genuine Heartfelt closeness and a love relationship. We tend to think well I need to go back and dig up that issue and fix that I didn't bury that dead thing deep enough and it's it's Aroma is coming up through the soil Paul says that's not it The basis of our unity is the truth of God and if there's a problem with unity go back to the truth Because that's where the power is I've said it many times.

I will say it again The power of God comes into the life of the believer in only one way The Spirit of God and the Word of God those two were combined Essentially in the Lord Jesus Christ himself the fullness of deity in bodily form is the Word and the Spirit This is how he Pushes away the satanic attack that he experiences in the wilderness man shall not live by bread alone But every word that proceeds from the mouth of God Whatever the temptation whatever the challenge whatever the conflict it is the Word and the Spirit and Paul is going to address both of those in this letter so these fables these stories are Rationalizations and justifications and arguments being made based on genealogical details Well, I should be allowed to do this because I'm descended from the Levites and you know Levites Functioned in the Old Testament God authorized them to run the sacrifices and the tabernacle in the temple So, you know Levites ought to be the ones that are the elders or the deacons in the church might be an example of some Argument being made on the basis of a false connection. I'm connected to the Levites of the Old Testament in Christ. There is no Jew or Greek much less a Benjamite or a Levite or somebody from the tribe of Judah or somebody from the tribe of Naphtali it doesn't matter and to try to construct a Justification or an argument that someone should be treated differently or judged differently or given different opportunities in any sphere based on any connection other than in Christ if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation old things are passed away.

You start dragging up genealogies all you're going to do is Run afoul and be in an erroneous debate of some kind Do not give heed to these stories that stem from Connections that don't count in genuine Christian life. It doesn't matter where you came from Everything depends on where you're going in Christ All these do is create disputes rather than Godly edification, I didn't mention this first time we did verse 4 But there is a 50-50 split in the text here on the word edification And it's based on this word Oikonomia, we've talked about that the *namas* is the law the *oikos* is the house the law of the house and so it's translated edification but it also the other variant says Basically the economy We get our word economy from *oikonomia* and God's economy God's functioning System whereby we relate and move forward bear fruit Make decisions that entire rule of the household is threatened by people who Thrive on debate who want to contend who decide that they're a Calvinist and you're not and they need to convert you or You're not a Calvinist and those people are and I need to convert them I need to illuminate them and pull them out of their erroneous doctrine Paul tells Timothy and the church in Ephesus don't do that People need to group around their understanding of the truth and be united in it If you grow out of it, or think you've grown out of it If you come to a new understanding and it

creates tension in the group leave Find a different fellowship where you can be unified as I have said many times at the judgment It is not going to be a theology test. It is going to be a measure of Love and that's where Paul goes here because the purpose of this commandment is love.

I Can't just decide to love I can't generate love even if I know I'm supposed to love if I'm not loving I can't just say oh looky there. I'm not loving. I'll start loving now.

There is a means For us to have and express love It begins with God Romans 5 5 one of my favorite passages the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit We Become receptacles and Conveyances for the love of God. I don't have to generate love God will put love in me and let that love come out through me By the Holy Spirit. This is the other half of the equation genuine doctrine But without love first Corinthians 13, it is all for naught Can have all knowledge knowledge puffs up love builds up edifies So the purpose of the commandment You also can't have love you can have all the spirit you want But if you don't have the truth that love is still not going to function because you don't know how to aim it It is going to explode instead of producing a useful piece of work so in order to Control and direct and manage this love from God.

We have to have three things. We have to have a Pure heart I Was not born with a pure heart. I regularly defile and corrupt my heart.

How do I get back to a pure heart? Psalm 51 David Against thee and thee only have I sinned Create in me a clean heart. Oh God renew a right spirit within me first John If we confess our sins, he will cleanse us from all unrighteousness I have to first of all look at myself. This is so helpful to get away from subjectivity by first of all looking at myself and Identifying and confessing my known sins.

This is not the Christian life Entirely there have been times in the past where whole groups of people thought it was all I got to do is Rebound and keep moving every time I goof up. I'll just confess Sorry, no, but it is an essential step It's like getting into your car. You're not going anywhere unless you insert the key and Start the engine Then you don't just sit there.

Well sure glad I got that done got the right key off the ring turned it The battery was good. There's fuel in the tank. The car is running great You're not going anywhere yet, that's an essential step but there is more that follows if you're going to arrive and you cannot limit yourself to Constantly looking back and saying well that was a sin Lord.

Sorry about that. I am cleansed. I've got a pure heart What else do we need a? Pure heart a good conscience.

This is our moral perceptions our Standards norms what is right? What is wrong? If I am tasked with going somewhere sitting in the driveway with my engine running is not right. I Have to have an understanding of what is right. We have duties and responsibilities and tasks We have exhortations and commands from the Lord Jesus and throughout the apostolic record not to

mention the examples of the Old Testament There are things that are right that should be done All things are lawful, but not all things are edifying Paul says in another place What is it that edifies what how can I participate in edification? so that's a good conscience you have to be able to know well as As appealing as this might be and as many arguments as might be made for it from the world from social media from people that say Well, you ought to come down and support this and you ought to oppose that and you ought to ought to ought to Coming from outside sources, how do I sift that and know whether I should jump on that train join that bandwagon or not? good conscience Where does the good conscience come from pure heart comes from acknowledging and confessing sin? I have to know what sin is if I'm going to identify it and confess it right that comes from the Word of God If I'm going to have a good conscience, I have to know what God's standard of right and wrong is Some people are vegans for health reasons or Vegetarians some people are vegans because they have a moral objection to killing and eating animals I am NOT one of them But I respect the fact that people who have decided these animals mammals are advanced and have Moods and personalities and people have pet pigs and you know we've raised stock right here on this property and you get to know them and they're persons and You know, you wouldn't take your beloved pet dog and say well, you know supper time and we're having dog stew We we object to something like that.

Well, there are people who extend that kind of objection to animals Paul says in the area of non-essential things some people just compare meat offered to idols Versus that which is considered to be kosher or clean Paul says don't divide over things like that. Let each one be fully convinced in his own mind That is a non-essential and if you believe that it's wrong to eat animals and you sit down and eat them Anyway, that to you is sin. This is what the good conscience is You can defend or excuse many non-essential things and if your spiritual life is healthy and Growing and you see the fruit of faith hope and love Then your decisions about what you do and don't eat or what you do and don't drink Or whether or not you imbibe some other habit or whatever it may be that's between you and the Lord and as you continue to grow in grace and knowledge if that particular thing is a Problem or if it becomes a problem due to excess Moderation in all things is a command of scripture.

Let your moderation be known to all Whatever you do do it heartily as unto the Lord and not unto men So within those parameters is my conscience good Go with it want to be vegan be vegan be vegan as unto the Lord Lord. You made these animals I feel like they you know, despite the fact that you had the Israelites sacrificed them by the droves I I think we're in the New Testament age. I don't want to participate in that as under the Lord That's between you and him.

I would never tell somebody don't be vegan because it's anti scripture by the same token if you look at it and say Well, what about pork, you know, God told the Israelites don't eat pork, so I'd like to eat beef and Anything else but but not pork because that's what got Seventh-day Adventist Won't eat pork won't eat Jell-o because it's boiled pig hooves and such if that's your conscience And you hold that conscience up before the Lord and you and the Lord are are cool with that do

that a Good conscience. It isn't so much. Can I nitpick and find a justification or a prohibition? it is am I doing what I do out of love for God and love for my fellow man and The details on many of these non essential questions Remember Paul says some people observe days feasts and seasons others treat every day alike Let each one be fully convinced in his own mind that is the good conscience and in the area of non essentials it is live and let live if I Oppress or look askance or make somebody feel bad about their particular personal choices Now I am wrong.

I Am NOT respecting the law of love. I am NOT The the solution I am the problem So good conscience and then a sincere or unhypocritical faith Don't say one thing and do another Don't believe one thing but in your practice it doesn't work out Oh, I love my fellow believers, but when they're not around I'll talk about them or I'll hold a grudge against them or I'll penalize them in some way and I'll get over into judging and so on a Unhypocritical faith is I've got to be unified in my own mind and unified with my fellow believers in pursuing the Unity of the faith and the bond of peace an unhypocritical faith. This is our faith life That's what the Southern Baptist renamed the the Baptist bookstores.

It's it's faith life and It's a good concept So What is this? The these three things if I want to have love if I want to love and be loved in the genuine sense I don't have to sit in a corner and try to Generate I don't have to try to rationalize or come up with reasons to Fix my attitude and develop love. I Go to the source of love in the same way that Paul says to Timothy You've got to go to the source of this bad teaching and put a stop to it I've got to go to the source for love to Have it and to express it because it is the love from God it is God's love and if I will concentrate on my pure heart my good conscience and my unhypocritical faith Love will happen love will express. These are its sources and it will be as natural as Balance, it will be as natural as hand-eye coordination So it's such a wonderful thing in it that scripture doesn't just tell us what to do or how to be But it gives us the wherewithal it gives us the actual practical means of doing it So that's what Paul is telling Timothy to emphasize in the church So pastors of churches need to emphasize these things and that's what we're endeavoring to do this morning people that have Strayed from these things what happens in verse 6 They have turned aside to idle talk talk that doesn't benefit Bible classes that don't make a difference in my life Conversations and fellowship that isn't up building and the motive for this is people who want the status of Being looked at for information Well, I'm I'm teaching because I enjoy being the center of attention I like people listening to me and what I have to say and so I'll not only talk about the Word of God but I'll give my personal opinions and I'll talk politics and I'll talk social issues and I'll rant about things I dislike and I'll Celebrate things that I do like Desiring to be teachers But not understanding what they're talking about How could you not understand things that come up for a group of believers Lack of sound doctrine Concentrating on doctrine I used to wonder about this because I would have a weekend when I was young single and stuck somewhere in the Military and I would just I've recorded Bible classes and I would just listen to them chain, smoke them just end to end to end six seven eight in a day and People would say you're gonna be so heavenly minded, you know, earthly good I mean, you're just you're just imbibing this stuff to excess But studying the Word of God is if you

do wind up with an error It's a self-correcting error because the more the Word of God you get if some parts of it aren't right That's going to start to show and if I'm doing it to excess the Word of God itself is going to say moderation in all things and One of the things I discovered and I don't typically binge Studying anymore and one of the reasons is what I discovered is God didn't put us here to be an endless Bible class It's like eating a meal I don't have to constantly eat through the day and every five minutes I'm gonna run out of energy if I don't take a bite of a sandwich We stop and eat a meal and the power that is locked in those molecules of protein and Carbohydrate and fat and the rest of it those that energy Explodes its gasoline in the tank a few gallons of gasoline will power a tractor for hours And the Word of God is alive and powerful and a little of it goes a long way So we fill the tank we eat the meal and we are equipped to Function in the strength.

It reminds me of the the meal that God gave Elijah when he was depressed and in the strength of that meat he went 40 days and 40 nights The Lord Jesus his 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness being tested by Satan What was his fuel? Turn these stones to bread don't need it word of God Is my life but we can get up in the morning and just have a short time of fellowship with God people call it having my devotions or reading streams in the desert or some other Dr. Criswell has a daily devotional. There's endless sources of devotionals to get a scriptural thought a doctrinal perspective something in our minds and we Warm that up in the toaster oven and we imbibe it in our soul and that will power us through the morning But if we feel weak if we get deflected if we give in to temptation if we find ourselves Erring and falling short again and again Why would that be? Maybe I'm not eating. Maybe I'm running out of energy spiritually because I'm not partaking regularly of that nutrition and Getting God's strength and God's power and God's love Functioning in my soul.

So once again if I find myself Struggling there is a scriptural answer. It is super simple eat your spiritual food Get back to that sound doctrine that powers individual and collective spiritual life Get the food That's the energy So they desire to be teachers they're all about position and function and and relationship they're focusing on relationships Instead of focusing on that sound doctrine The sound doctrine will tell you how the relationships ought to function and who ought to be where? You get to the doctrine of the laying on of hands in in Hebrews Not laying the foundation of change of mind away from dead works and faith toward God Doctrine of baptisms and of laying on of hands. Well, how did they know who to lay hands on? It's the Word of God and the Spirit of God just like everything else who should be commissioned who should be promoted who should be recognized Who should teach who should be a deacon who should look after the widows and orphans? Going back to Acts chapter 6 Well, this is the Word and the Spirit.

That's where the power the guidance the illumination comes from. So this is Paul's point We know that the law is Not made for a righteous person and you can scratch out the word the in front of law isn't there in Greek and This is law in general now. He is referring primarily to the law of Moses but law in general is made to constrain evil to identify and Provide consequences to bad

behavior.

That's what it's for and these details of ungodly and sinners unholy and profane murders fathers and mothers you can look at this and starting with the Basically corresponds to the fifth through the ninth commandments in the tables of the law Exodus chapter 20 the first four commandments have to do with God and then you have those that deal with people and So thou shalt not murder is the first one Fornicators I shall not commit adultery Sodomites this falls under you know sexual purity Kidnappers this is men who grabbed the foot literally and I'm not sure this is so much some translations say this is a slave Slave traders slaveholders catching a man by the foot but causing others to stumble Impeding their progress if you catch somebody by the foot, that's the general idea Liars thou shalt not bear false witness Perjurers and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, we're all the way back This is sort of an inclusio with the beginning in verse 3 teach no other doctrine Things that don't comport with sound doctrine have got to be purged out eliminated According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust Committed to my trust now, this is a great thought Has God committed Something to your trust all of us have been entrusted with opportunities and Responsibilities before God every single one of us for Paul What was entrusted to him was the communication of the good news of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles? It was committed to his trust God entrusted Paul with this opportunity and responsibility Most of us are not entrusted with The evangelistic task there are those who have the gift of evangelism But most of us are not that but all of us have a trust and we say well I'm not qualified for God to entrust me with anything. I have a hard enough time just trying to walk the narrow road through the straight gate Sorry Everybody has a trust and Paul says let me tell you if you have doubts that you can fulfill a trust from God Let me just tell you about myself. I Thank Jesus Christ our Lord who enabled me notice.

I Am enabled to fulfill this trust from God because Jesus Christ enables me Not by works of righteousness, which I have done. It's according to his mercy He saves us is according to his grace that he entrusts us and it is according to his power that we fulfill that trust It is not on me and it is not on you The power to fulfill the trust comes in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank Christ Jesus our Lord He enabled me because he counted me faithful notice Paul was and he's about to tell us He's the foremost of sinners Protoss means foremost It's not the absolute worst compared to every other figure in human history, but he's foremost in the context of Ephesus Timothy Hymenaeus and Alexander and anybody else you want to talk about Paul says if you want to talk about being a sinner I am foremost.

I Thank Jesus Christ. He has enabled me why there are two reasons Jesus Christ has enabled Paul to be the Apostle to the Gentiles to write these inspired scriptures that benefit us today for two reasons one He counted me faithful He knew I would be faithful to the task. I Wasn't being faithful at the time that it was entrusted to me.

I Was formerly a blasphemer a persecutor and an insolent man But I obtained mercy reason number two Because I did it ignorantly in unbelief and you can go back to numbers and see the

Scripture that talks about unintentional sin versus a sin of the high hand and For an unintentional sin for the group and for an individual there is a sacrifice But for a sin of the high hand there is no sacrifice you are not reconciled to God you are purged from the camp and Somebody who develops an intransigent Rebellious attitude is out You're not coming back to God and you're not coming back to the fellowship Paul says that was not me. I did it in ignorance and faithlessness ignorance and unbelief But he had a zeal for God not according to knowledge as he describes Israel in general over in Romans He had a tremendous zeal for God and he was faithful to what he thought was his task as a Pharisee and Jesus knew he would be faithful if he got on the right track and so Jesus confronts him and He knew that Paul would be faithful once he understood the task and he was and what he was doing previously Was done in ignorance and unbelief many of us have a past where we've done Incredibly stupid and sinful and hurtful things And it wasn't that we enjoyed it and that was a part of our character in nature. It was ignorance and Faithlessness without faith, it is impossible to please God without faith.

We can't Be filled with the love of God and shed it abroad to others Faith faith has an object faith is the sound doctrine faith is the truth Once Paul received the truth about Jesus Christ and latched on to it by faith he was faithful faithful unto death faithful through shipwrecks and Forty lashes minus one three different times and imprisonments and beatings and scourgings and being stoned and left for dead So Jesus understood that if he had the truth he would latch on to it Everyone gets it gets a crack at the truth Romans chapter 1 if you suppress that truth and unrighteousness That's a bad road and it doesn't end. Well read the rest of the chapter in Romans 1 But this is hope for us Paul brings this up not because he wants to make everybody subjective and get eyes on Paul But he says look Everyone has a calling everyone has a trust my trust came Despite a lot of things that I could have argued disqualify me other people have argued that it disqualifies me He's a blasphemer and a persecutor How can he possibly teach the things that he formerly despised and attacked it is the grace of God and Paul's whole point here is in verse 16 for this reason. I obtained mercy that in me first He says I am foremost of sinners, but in me foremost Jesus Christ might show all long-suffering as a pattern to those who are going to believe on him for everlasting life If the Lord Jesus Can grace me out and entrust me with the treasure of the gospel He can grace you out and entrust you and enable and empower you to fulfill that trust if he can do it for Paul He can do it for you.

That's the argument Then the doxology in verse 17 now to the King eternal immortal invisible To the one God that the wise isn't there that's an import from a parallel text To the one God be honor and glory forever and ever amen and Paul will break into a doxology many times when he's thinking about God the Father and we'll we'll take a quick look at those passages and then move forward to Conclude our review of chapter 1 and move into chapter 2 after the break