1 Timothy 1 - Holding on to Faith and a Good Conscience

The Gospel of the Glory of the Blessed God: 1 Tim 1v11. At the beginning (**1v11**) and end (**6v20**) of this letter, Paul tells Timothy of the immense responsibility he has been given. Like us, Timothy was entrusted with gospel of the Kingdom. **This is the faith he was exhorted to hold on to: 1v19**. God has also given us this wonderful gift of eternal life. Our response must be to extend this to others: **Matt 25v14-30**.

The **"gospel of the glory"** is literally what **1v11** means. God's glory is His Character: **Exod 33v18-19; 34v5-7**. Jesus Christ was the perfect manifestation of Yahweh's character and purpose. As such, Jesus is called the "glory of God": **Isa 40v5-9; John 1v14**. God's purpose is to fill the earth with His glory: **Num 14v21; Isa 11v9; Hab 2v14; Psa 72v19.**

The gospel is the "things concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ": **Acts 8v12,25; 28v31**. Belief in the true gospel saves us: **1 Cor 15v1-2**. This "glorious gospel of Christ" must shine in our lives as an example to others: **2 Cor 4v4-6**. The hope of the gospel is what gives us hope in times of despair: **2 Cor 4v6-10**. The gospel of the Kingdom was preached to Abraham: **Gal 3v6-9**. Belief in the gospel leads to baptism and salvation: **Mark 16v15-16**. The gospel is a dynamic power that can save us: **Rom 1v16**. Through Christ, we are "begotten through the gospel", by God's Word of Truth: **1 Cor 4v15; James 1v18**. The Gospel is likened to an incorruptible seed that gives eternal life and leads to a genuine love for others: **1 Pet 1v22-25**.

v1-2 Paul's Introduction to Timothy, his Son in the Faith.
v1 Saviour: Used of God in **1 Tim 1v1; 2v3; Titus 1v3; 2v 10,13; 3v4.** This title introduces God as offering salvation through his Son Jesus Christ: **Luke 1v47; Jude v24-25**. Yahweh's work through Christ is the main subject in the Bible: **Gen 49v18; Isa 12v2; 49v9; 52v7,10; 59v11; 63v5; Lam 3v26**. Jesus in Hebrew means "Yah saves". God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself: **2 Cor 5v19; Rom 8v3**.
Christ our Hope: Eph 2v12; Col 1v27; 3v1-4; Titus 2v13.
v2 My own son: Paul says the same of Titus in **Titus 1v4** and Onesimus in **Phm v10**. Paul had no children yet was a true father in the faith, as God is to us: **Hos 11v3; 1 Cor 4v15**.

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO
TIMOTHY.

CHAPTER 1.
1 Of Paul's former charge to Timothy. 5 The right use and end of the law. 11 Saint Paul's calling to be an apostle. 20 Of Hymenæus and Alexander.

PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ [f] by the command-
ment of [a] God our Sa[illegible]our, and Lord Jesus Christ, [b] *which is* our hope;
2 Unto [c] Timothy, [d] *my* own son in the faith: [e] Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from God our

[a] Luke 1. 47. 2 Tim. 1. 9. [b] Col. 1. 27. [c] Acts 16. 1. [d] 1 Cor. 4. 17. [e] Rom. 1. 7. [f] Rom. 16. 26.

Colour code: Blue (God & Jesus); Red (sin/devil/judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words & phrases); Purple (return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation). Prepared for Study Week 2010. Much assistance for these notes has been gained from "Godliness with Contentment" by George Booker and Troy Haltom.
For a PDF file, email acdangerfield@webshield.net.au or download from www.studyweek.net First principles Bible marking sheets are also available.

v3 Ephesus: Paul left Timothy here while he journeyed on further. **Charge** means to command with authority.
Teach no other doctrine: This is the reason Paul left Timothy in Ephesus. It was not easy for him, but Paul always encourages him in this: **1 Tim 6v3; 2 Cor 11v4; Gal 1v8**. New theories were arising in the ecclesia which caused some to doubt if this really was the Truth after all: **1v6; 4v1; 5v15; 6v21**.
v4 NIV "These promote controversies rather than God's work - which is by faith." **Questions** and **controversies** do not build up ecclesias: **2 Tim 2v23**. They create divisions. **Titus 3v9-10** says, "…these are unprofitable and useless. Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him."
Fables: Myths. **Genealogies:** Family origins, disputes between families.
v5 Charity is from the Gk word *agape*, being a self-sacrificing love, developed through God's love for us. This is the love of **1 Cor 13**. God Himself is described by this one word: **1 Jn 4v8**. Also **1 Tim 1v14; 2v15; 4v12; 6v11**.
A pure heart: Clean, genuine and sincere: **Psa 18v26; 24v3-5; Matt 5v8**.
A good conscience: Confidence in God's forgiveness and in the Truth God has given us: **Acts 24v16; Phil 1v9-10; 1 Pet 3v16**. cp. a defiled conscience in **Titus 1v15**. **Faith unfeigned:** Sincere, real, without hypocrisy. It involves trust and confidence that God is in control: The just will live by faith: **Hab 2v4; Rom 1v17; Gal 3v11; Heb 10v38.**

Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.
3 As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, [a] when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they [c] teach no other doctrine,
4 Neither give heed to fables and endless [e] genealogies, which minister [f] questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: *so do.*
5 Now [g] the end of the commandment is charity [h] out of a pure heart, and *of* a good conscience, and *of* faith unfeigned:
6 From which some [i] having swerved have turned aside unto [l] vain jangling;
7 Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.
8 But we know that [o] the law *is* good, if a man use it lawfully;
9 Knowing this, that [p] the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for [s] unholy and [t] profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,
10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for [u] menstealers, for liars, for [z] perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to [z] sound doctrine;
11 According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, [a] which was committed to my trust.
12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, [b] who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, [c] putting me into the ministry;
13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because [e] I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.
14 [g] And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant [i] with

v6 Vain Jangling: NIV "meaningless talk" The world is full of this.
v7 NIV "They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm."
v8-9 The law is good: Rom 7v12,16 "The law is holy, just and good." The law was not an end in itself. Jesus Christ was the fulfilment of the law. He was the substance, the law was only a shadow. The law taught that they were sinners and that they needed a Saviour: **Heb 9 v11-15**. The law in itself did not save: **Gal 2v16; 4v9**. Jesus however taught the spirit of the law: **Matt 22v37-40; Psa 40v6-8; Heb 10v5-9**.
v10 NIV "…for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers - and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine"

v10 Contrary to sound doctrine: Everything else not included in **v9-10**.
v11 ESV "in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted." This is literally the meaning of this.
v12-17 Paul's own Experience of the Gospel.
v12 NIV "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service."
Enabled me: The first thing Paul says about his own experience is that he is thankful for what Jesus has done for him. It is the life of Christ that gave Paul the strength to continue his ministry: **Gal 2v20; Phil 4v13**. The life of Christ was set out in God's purpose to affect us personally: **Acts 8v32-36**. A true appreciation of Christ life has an emotional influence upon us and gives us strength to continue: **Acts 8v34-39**. Paul recognised that he was weak and that God's strength was best revealed in his weakness: **2 Cor 3v5-6; 12v9-10**.
v13 Paul persecuted the ecclesia: Acts 8v3; 22v4; Gal 1v13. Paul was still responsible for his sin. But he was an unbeliever. Knowledge of the Truth brings ultimate responsibility: **Jn 9v41; 12v47-48; Jms 4v17**.

faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.
15 This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that [b] Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.
16 Howbeit for this cause [d] 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.
17 Now unto [i] the King eternal, [k] immortal, invisible, the only wise God, *be* honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.
18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the [m] prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest [n] war a good warfare;
19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:
20 Of whom is Hymenæus and [q] Alexander; whom I have [r] delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

v14 Grace exceeding abundant: Paul had such gratitude for the undeserved forgiveness shown to him by God. An appreciation of God's grace towards us is a motivation for Godliness: **Rom 5 v20; Titus 2v11-15**.
v15 Christ came to save sinners: This is the first faithful saying in **1 Tim**. See notes on the *Background and Overview*. Christ did not come for the righteous but to bring sinners to repentance: **Matt 9 v11-13; Jn 10v9**. Remember we are all are sinners in desperate need of God's grace. Paul was a humble man who never forgot his need for forgiveness.
v16 Because Jesus is **longsuffering** to us, we should also show this to others: **Eph 4v2; 2 Tim 3v10**. God's longsuffering waited in the days of Noah: **1 Pet 3v20**. This is a motivation for us: **Rom 2v4**.
A pattern: An example for us to follow: **Matt 18v23-35; Eph 5v1; 1 Cor 11v1**.

v17 Paul interjects at the end of discussing his calling to the gospel with an exclamation of praise to God. When we really appreciate God's grace and forgiveness, we cannot help but to give God praise. Paul gives similar exclamations in **1 Tim 6v15-16; Rom 8v33-39; 11v33-36**.
Eternal: King of Ages: **Dan 4v17, 25; Heb 11v3**. **Invisible: Heb 11v27**.
v18-20 Defend the Faith. This is a repeat of Paul's command in **v3**.
War a good warfare: This is a lifelong war against temptation and sin: **Rom 6v13; 7v18,19; 1 Pet 2v11; 2 Tim 4v7**. See notes on **6v12**. This also involves protecting the ecclesia from false teaching: **Jude v3-4**.
v19 NIV **"holding on to faith and a good conscience."** A constant theme. See notes on **1v5** and in the *Background and Overview*.
v20 Satan: The adversary, ie. into the world, explained as withdrawal of fellowship in **1 Cor 5v5,7,11,13**. See also: **Matt 18v17; 2 Thess 3v14**.