

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

July 2014

LEADER DEVELOPMENT- SOUND DOCTRINE

INTRODUCTION:

What mentor(s) have helped you develop your leadership skills?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: During his fourth missionary journey, Paul had instructed Timothy to care for the church at Ephesus while he went to Macedonia. When he realized that he might not return to Ephesus in the near future, he wrote this first letter to Timothy to develop the charge he had given his young assistant to refute false teachings and to supervise the affairs of the growing Ephesian church. A major problem in the Ephesian church was a heresy that combined Gnosticism, decadent Judaism, and false asceticism. 2 Tim 2:2 summarizes an overarching theme for our study of 1 & 2 Timothy.

Read 1 Timothy 1:1-11

1. What does Paul's greeting in verse 2 communicate about Timothy?
2. Why does Paul use the word 'command' (or "charge") in verse 3?

Note: "Charge" is a military term meaning "give strict orders from the commanding officer." Notice the chain of command.

3. What is the relationship between the 'command' of verse 3 and the 'love' of verse 5?
4. Why would some people 'want to be teachers of the law'? vs 7
5. How can the 'law' be good? Vv. 8-11

Note: Some say the purpose of the law is not to control believers (8a), but unsaved people (8b-11).

6. How would Timothy know the difference between good and bad doctrine? 2 Tim 2:2; 3:16
7. Why are many people today easily deceived by false doctrine? 2 Tim 4:3-4; Ps 59:10; Ps 139:23-24; 1 Jn 1:9; Heb 9:14; Acts 2:37-38; Heb 13:18
8. What are some examples of false doctrine threatening the church today?
9. What are some of the vain discussions of the church today? How can we avoid them?
10. What risk was Paul willing to take by sending Timothy to care for the church at Ephesus? Why was he willing to take the risk?
11. How is Paul's willingness to trust Timothy with such an important leadership role both an inspiration and a challenge to us today?

APPLICATION

- Who is a 'Paul' (spiritual mentor) in your life? Who is your 'Timothy' (someone you can mentor)? If you do not have one/both, then fervently ask God to lead them to you.
- Not mentioned here, but who is your Barnabus (someone to encourage you – normally a peer)? Ideally, we all need a Paul, a Barnabus and a Timothy type relationship in our lives.

The spirit of the age that we live in can be summed up by the slogan 'This is my truth, tell me yours', first used by the British politician Nye Bevin and popularized by the rock group "The Manic Street Preachers". Truth is considered to be relative and anyone who is prepared to say that God has given us absolute truth in the Bible is considered to be a fanatic. It is not an easy time to be faithful to the truth. However, if we truly love God and believe his Word, we will be prepared to break through 'the pain barrier' and make a stand against ideas and teaching that contradict it.¹

¹ Robinson, S. J. (2004). *Opening up 1 Timothy* (p. 19). Leominster: Day One Publications.