

Sermon study 1 Timothy 1 “Sound Doctrine”

Use this outline as a guide. You can talk about it a different way if you like but whatever you do make sure the depth of this study is depth of APPLICATION. Do not make it your goal to get sidetracked determining the meaning. The goal is to move forward from the message into actual real life and specific application. Be creative and follow up about application. Imagine a church where the people actually applied what they learned. Wow.

The problem this sermon addresses:

Certain people were teaching different, unsound doctrine in the church. They were in danger of replacing grace with law.

In your selection of churches, how important was sound doctrine?

What has been your experience of unsound doctrine?

How might this be harmful to the body of Christ?

The Central Proposition of the text:

Teach sound doctrine. It is the loving thing to do and it is your responsibility.

Main Idea:

Sound doctrine saves lives

I. Chain of Command

A. Paul greets his protege Timothy formally as a commanding officer. His command did not come from merit but from his Savior and the mercy he received. Paul is setting up the themes of this letter right from the start. Themes of grace not law and of a command to defend and preach sound doctrine.

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1. How does this greeting differ from this one?
2. Based on Paul's formality, how serious is doctrinal deviancy?
3. How important is the content of our faith?
4. How does mercy (not getting what you deserve) relate to the law? (the law is meant to show us that we deserve condemnation and mercy shows that we are saved not on merit but on His mercy and grace)

II. The Command

A. Paul urges Timothy to command certain people to not teach different doctrines. The charge is to defend sound doctrine. Unsound doctrine is seen as abandoning the plain truths they were taught for myths and speculations.

1. Read Acts 20:17-31. Paul warned the Ephesian elders earlier to watch out for wolves. Is this something we need to watch out for today?
 - a) Discernment seems to be a pastoral requirement. How serious should we take it when pastors deviate from sound doctrine?
2. Read Galatians 1:6-9; Philippians 1:27; Titus 1:9; 2:1; Jude 1:3-4. How important is sound doctrine in the church?
3. Spend some time exploring <http://www.alittleleaven.com> (be careful to not emulate their critical tone and be careful of hidden pride but observe the state of the modern american church.) discuss.
 - a) This site is sometimes overly critical but it is nonetheless telling as a source for what is happening in the church today.

- (1) What do you think might be missing from some of these churches in order for it to get this bad?
- (2) What prevents true believers from leaving these churches? (being called a hater etc)

III. The Reason

A. Paul points out that the reason for his command is love. Love should motivate us to strive for sound doctrine. Specifically love motivates us to actually use the law for what it is for - to condemn.

1. Read Romans 3:20 and 5:20. Who is the law for?
 - a) In our culture today who is the law for?
 - b) Does it punish or reward?
 - c) Why is it silly to point to the law to justify yourself?
2. Read Galatians 2:17-3:14 and 3:21-4:11. The law is to point us to our need for a savior.
 - a) Have you ever tried to keep the law? How about rules? How did you do?

IV. The responsibility

A. Paul entrusts this stewardship of sound doctrine to Timothy. Paul was a law breaker- a murderer who became a missionary by the mercy of God- not by keeping rules.

1. Read verse 15. The idea of law keeping makes this verse worthless. You are not saved because you are awesome but because He is. Discuss how this truth is so radical to every other religion and philosophy you have ever encountered.
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:3-8. What gave Paul such a soft heart? (hint - 1 tim. 1:16)
3. If you do not learn to find your identity vertically from the true gospel you will eventually turn to look horizontally to a different gospel and you will eventually proclaim a different gospel. You will turn it into a formula.

V. Indicatives and imperatives

A. Tangibly, we see sound doctrine twisted today when preachers exchange the indicatives with the imperatives of Scripture. There are countless examples but here are a few:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 5:7. What is the indicative and what is the imperative? What happens if we put the imperative first? "You really are unleavened" (indicative), therefore "Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump" (imperative)
 - a) False doctrine says: cleanse out the old leaven so you be unleavened - the truth is waaay different - because you are unleavened clean out the old
2. Galatians 5:1. What is the indicative and what is the imperative?
3. Colossians 3:1-5. What is the indicative and what is the imperative?

Implication:

The implication of this sermon could be summed up this way:

WWJD (what would Jesus do) condemns and WDJD (what did Jesus do) saves.

How does WWJD condemn? (can you walk on water? Are you sinless? Selfless?)

How does WDJD save? (read 1 Timothy 1:15)

Application:

Know and put your faith in the indicatives and never let the indicatives become imperatives.

Specifically how might you apply this message to your own life?

Tip: One thing that helped me when I first got saved was to read study Bibles. They helped me to see the big picture in areas where I did not have a background to understand context. Two study Bibles that I would highly recommend are:

http://www.amazon.com/Ryrie-Study-Hardback-Letter-Version/dp/0802475620/ref=pd_sim_b_6

And

http://www.amazon.com/MacArthur-Study-Bible-Revised-Updated/dp/0718018990/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1358739153&sr=1-2&keywords=macarthur+study+bible+esv