

ECCLESIA

LIVING THE MESSAGE: 1 Timothy 1:8-11

SHARINGSTORIES

Ted delivered another great sermon from Paul's letter to Timothy. Whether you have or have not studied 1 Timothy before, this series promises to offer insights, encouragement, and challenges to every member of our body at Trinity Chapel. Last week, we saw how false teachers were interacting with and teaching the Law to suit their own purposes. This week, Paul talks about the true purpose of the Law. While certain false teachers were twisting the Law to cater to their hearer's egos, Paul reminds Timothy (and us) that the Law is to help all of us as we stray from the parameters God has set for us. In the list found in these verses, the real issue is the attitude behind the actions. As we look to the Law as a mirror that reflects our attempts to live independently of the Father, let us rise to the challenge of responding whole-heartedly and doing our best to live in God's strength and follow His will. He has promised us His strength to do His will.

How would you summarize your understanding of the Law? What is its essence? What does this mean? Do you think you are a sinner who will become a saint or a saint who still sins? What is the difference?

DIGGINGIN

Read the entire passage, paying particular attention to the list of attitudes and sinful behaviors. Look for the relationship between these behavioral descriptions and one's approach to God.

How would you categorize the issues Paul raises in these verses? What is the issue he is getting at? Is it possible to understand the God's Word and still live in the way this passage describes? Why? Why not? Which pair of descriptors hits closest to home for you? In which areas do you struggle most regularly?

GOINGDEEPER

Gordon Fee makes an interesting point in the following concise statement. Read it and discuss your thoughts and responses to it with one another. "Healthy teaching leads to proper Christian behavior, love and good works; the diseased teaching of the heretics leads to controversies, arrogance, abusiveness, and strife."

What contemporary issues produce "controversies, arrogance, abusiveness, and strife" in churches today? What do you think of teachings that are not necessarily heretical yet fail to produce "proper Christian behavior, love and good works?" What standards should we use to evaluate such teachings? How does one teach something that some strongly disagree with and still remain healthy and godly?

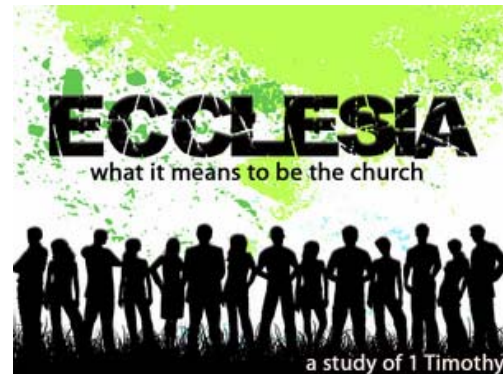
PRAYER

Spend this time discerning how best pray for one another. Praise God for one specific item and petition Him for one request on another's behalf.

We have lots of people under the weather in our body at the moment. Please ask the Father to restore them to health. Thank God for what He is doing at TCBC and ask Him. Praise Him for His Word.

REFLECTION

What one idea has the Spirit impressed on your mind and heart from this passage? Has a particular verse/issue/idea from this passage been coming up often in your life? If so, what is it? Perhaps it addresses an issue God wants you to consider. Ask the Spirit to speak to your spirit.



ECCLESIAWHAT IT MEANS TO BE THE CHURCH