

Life in the Word

Cornerstone Sermon-based Life Group Lesson



Sermon Series: **Church 101**

Sermon Title: **The Battle for the Truth**

Scripture Passage: **1 Timothy 1:3-5**

Getting Started

Background:

Paul writes to Timothy most likely from Corinth, but possibly from visiting other Churches in Macedonia, Ephesus, Crete, Nicopolis, and Miletus. In Paul's previous letters, he is either exhorting the newly founded churches, correcting theology or defending himself before other's accusations. 1 Timothy is different (as is Titus) since Paul has extended his ministry now into Gaul. Paul has changed his strategy for sending these letters. Instead of sending letters to specific congregations (like Rome, Corinth, Ephesus) with someone to explain and work through the contents with the people, he is sending an individual letter to a very trusted coworker. In doing this, he not only is able to keep in personal communication with Timothy but also bolster the apostolic authorization for his teachings. This letter probably came to Timothy after Paul returned from his missionary journey in Spain.

Lets Jump In:

- 1) Read 1 Timothy 1:3-5 again with your group. What has God been teaching you through these verses?

- 2) Definitions are important in preventing misunderstandings. Compare and contrast the definitions of today's Church with what the early Church looked like. What are some of the larger differences and similarities? What should we be striving to look like?

- 3) Look back at John 10:14-16. Jesus uses the image of a Shepherd and sheep to illustrate his relationship with the church. What makes this illustration beneficial? What reaction does this illicit from you? How can we be "better" sheep?

- 4) What does it look like to abide in Christ?

- 5) False teaching was prevalent throughout the early Church and all the more now. Why does false teaching continue to rear its head? Imagine that you are sitting in an Ephesian Church, and just last week, you heard Timothy, the protege of Paul teaching. This week someone you have not heard of before is preaching some strange sounding doctrine. What do you think you would hear? What would you do?

- 6) What is your motivation to learn Scripture...or are you motivated to learn Scripture?

- 7) Pray for one another and for the faithfulness of the Church