**The Purpose of the Commandment**

*1 Timothy 1*

**Introduction**

1. It seems that some (both preachers and otherwise) have lost the proper perspective on the purpose of God’s word.
2. A study of Paul’s inspired explanation to Timothy proves beneficial.
3. What is the aim of preaching, listening to preaching, and studying God’s word?
4. A Charge to Teach Nothing but Sound Doctrine **(vv. 3-11)**
5. Timothy’s Work in Ephesus **(vv. 3-4)**
   1. Charge others – **(v. 3)** – Teach no other doctrine:
      1. Sound doctrine – **(v. 11)**
      2. Glorious gospel – **(v. 12)**
   2. Nor give heed – **(v. 4)** – fables and endless genealogies.
      1. **Fables** – fictional stories.
      2. **Endless genealogies** – arguments about Jewish lineage – stories fabricated around names that have no info.
      3. Cause – disputes (senseless and fruitless arguments)
      4. Rather than – godly edification:
         1. ***“rather than furthering the administration of God” (NASB)*** – i.e. His will, or doctrine – dispensation – dispensing His will.
            1. ***“I have been entrusted with a stewardship” (1 Corinthians 9:17 – “stewardship”*** is the same Greek word – speaking of the gospel committed to him to preach).
            2. **(v. 11)** – committed to his trust.
         2. ***“in faith”*** – what accompanies the dispensation of God’s will, or is produced by it. (**cf. Romans 1:17** – faith to faith; **10:17** – comes by hearing word)
         3. Such fables and endless genealogies prevent God’s work, not further it 🡪
6. The Purpose of the Commandment **(vv. 5-7)**
   1. The commandment’s purpose (of God, doctrine, sound doctrine, glorious gospel) – **(v. 5):**
      1. **Love** – ultimately to keep God’s commandments **(cf. John 14:15)**
         1. **Pure heart** – heart not tainted by impurities, but fully devoted to God.
         2. **Good conscience** – make the conscience clean from sin.
         3. **Sincere faith** – to produce true trust in, and fidelity to God.
      2. THIS IS WHAT IS ACCOMPLISHED BY GOSPEL PREACHING.
   2. Some have strayed from the purpose – **(v. 6):**
      1. Instead involved in ***“idle talk”*** – that of **(v. 4)**
      2. **(v. 7)** – they want to be teachers, but don’t even know the purpose of the commandment they propose to teach.
      3. They use the law unlawfully – compare **vv. 4, 8-11**
7. The Proper Use of the Law **(vv. 8-11)**
   1. There is a proper and improper use of the law – **(v. 8)**
   2. The law is used to correct what is wrong by directing back to sound doctrine **(vv. 9-11).**
      1. It exposes wrong so that men may do right.
      2. To direct love, to purify, to make the conscience clear of sin, and to produce faith in God.
8. Paul as an Example **(vv. 12-17)**
9. Placed into the Ministry Although a Former Enemy **(vv. 12-13)**
   1. Paul considers himself blessed to be involved in such a work.
   2. A work that he once was set out to destroy.
   3. And so, in light of the context of the gospel in which he now ministers, he considers his own salvation.
10. The Salvation of Paul **(vv. 14-17)**
    1. Grace of God accompanied with faith and love **(v. 14):**
       1. Grace of God was not alone.
       2. With faith and love – **(v. 4)** – ***“the administration of God which is by faith” (NASB)*** – faith which accompanied the dispensation of the gospel.
       3. Grace accessed through obedience to the commandment – Love. (**cf. John 14:15**)
    2. Christ came to save **(v. 15)** – this is why He came, and this is why His gospel is to be preached.
    3. Paul as a pattern for salvation for those going to believe **(v. 16):**
       1. Pattern – i.e. this is how any and all can be saved.
       2. What was Paul? – **(v. 13)**
          1. **Blasphemer** – law for “ungodly…unholy and profane” (v. 9)
          2. **Persecutor** – law for “insubordinate” (v. 9) – “It is hard for you to kick against the goads” (Acts 9:5).
          3. **Insolent (violent) man** – law for “murderers…manslayers…kidnappers” (vv. 9-10)
          4. I.e. the “doctrine” “commandment” “law” “sound doctrine” “glorious gospel” was given to Paul, and turned him from his sins to faith and love in Christ to the salvation of his soul.
    4. Praise to God (**v. 17)**
11. A Charge to Wage the Good Warfare – Fight for Sound Doctrine **(vv. 18-20)**
12. Paul’s Charge in Accordance with the Inspired Word **(v. 18)**
    1. ***“according to the prophecies which led the way to thee, that by them thou mayest war the good warfare” (ASV).***
       1. Prophecy – inspired teaching
       2. Led the way – i.e. established before you.
    2. By these wage the good warfare – i.e. fight against sin, error, and the misuse of the law BY USING SOUND DOCTRINE.
13. The State in Which this Charge is Carried Out **(v. 19a)**
    1. **Faith** – trust in God wrought from His word.
    2. **Good conscience** – clean from sin so as to remain true to God’s word in teaching it.
       1. If teaching God’s word is approached in a bad conscience then God’s word is in danger of compromise and distortion to ease said conscience.
    3. How? **(v. 5)** – by taking heed according to the commandment. (**4:16** – take heed to yourself and to the doctrine)
14. The Failure of Others to Do So **(vv. 19b-20)**
    1. Some rejected:
       1. **Faith** – did not trust solely in God’s word (not faithful to His word).
       2. **Good conscience** – conscience guilty of sin as they sought to teach.
    2. Suffered shipwreck concerning ***“the faith”*** (Gospel) – are destroyed – are not in any way in line with the gospel any longer.
    3. Identified – **(v. 20)** – Hymenaeus and Alexander:
       1. Paul disciplined (withdrew from) them – likely alongside the church in Ephesus.
       2. Their doctrine was “blasphemous” – they needed to learn such:
          1. When God’s word is misused in this way “blasphemy” is committed.
          2. **Blasphemy** – “to speak slanderously, impiously, profanely” (blapto, “to injure,” and pheme, “a saying”) (Vine)
          3. Injurious to who? God. How? – **v. 4** – cause disputes rather than further His administration in faith.
15. Applications for Preaching, Teaching, and Hearing
16. Understand the Purpose of the Commandment (of teaching) **(v. 5)**
    1. Administration of God in faith **– v. 4**
       1. Not merely educational.
       2. Not entertainment.
       3. Not a hobby. Etc.
    2. Love – from pure heart, good conscience, sincere faith.
17. Teach and Demand Only Sound Doctrine (**vv. 3, 10**)
    1. Sound – healthy.
    2. Only sound doctrine is spiritually healthy.
    3. Nothing contrary to it, and nothing like fables, etc.
18. The Gospel is Doctrine (**vv. 10-11**)
    1. Idea of “core gospel” to suggest “unity in diversity” – extending fellowship.
    2. We only have to agree on the “core gospel?”
    3. Gospel and doctrine refer to the same message in scripture. (Includes teaching against sin and error.)
19. There is War to Wage (**v. 18**)
    1. “Sound doctrine” is specified because of the reality of UNSOUND doctrine.
    2. There are ***“deceiving spirits” (4:1***) – this is serious and real, we are at war, and all are called to battle!
20. Have Faith and a Good Conscience (**v. 19**)
    1. **Preachers** – trust only in God’s word and keep self from sin or “the faith” will be compromised and suffer shipwreck.
    2. **Listeners** (all Christians) – same, or else we will reject “the faith” and seek things to ease our defiled conscience instead of repair it.

**Conclusion**

1. In a world which abuses God’s word, His people must understand its purpose.
2. We need to have constant remembrance of the place God’s word has, and never go against God’s intended purpose.