

Biblical Leadership: A Study of 1st Timothy
Lesson 3 “Keep It Simple”

I. Introduction - We are in a series on *1st Timothy*, which is a letter Paul wrote to Timothy in approximately 62 A.D. after he installed him as the pastor of the church in Ephesus.

A. This is personal letter, Paul wrote to mentor Timothy as Timothy took over one of the most significant churches in the 1st century (about 7 years after the revival that started the church). Paul wrote both to speak directly into Timothy’s life and also teach him how to address challenges the church was having (doctrinal, prayer, women, leadership, and how people handled money.)

B. Last week, we studied *1 Timothy 1:1-2* about how Paul disciplined Timothy (Paul’s son in the faith). Paul poured into him for 10 years before Timothy was put in charge of the church in Ephesus. **Leaders are made through discipleship, not born. This means if we don’t like what we see going on in our followers lives, we probably haven’t disciplined them appropriately.**

II. Keep It Simple - Tonight, we are going to address another important leadership topic: “Keep it Simple.” Sometimes when we are trying to lead people, we make things too complex or allow distractions to creep in to what we are doing and people lose sight of the main thing. **We get in trouble when minor on what God majors on and when we minor on what God majors on.**

A. **1 Timothy 2:2-11**

1. *Verse 3* - After Paul left Ephesus, he went to Macedonia and left Timothy in charge. While in charge, Timothy was supposed to charge his leaders that they teach non other doctrine.

- a. Messaging needs to be simple. It does no good to have a vision statement, if all your middle managers are teaching their own visions.
- b. Must inspect what we expect. Ex: Ameriquest

2. *Verse 4* Some of the teachers were heeding fables (the statue of the goddess Diana fell out of heaven), and focusing on genealogies (generational curse example).

- a. Did not stay on message and got caught up in deception.
- b. Stay away from things cause dispute instead of building the body up.
Ex: 2020 and all the prophetic error because the focus shifted to the elation instead of the the gospel/revival.

3. *Verse 5 - 7* The purpose of the commandment/end of the law is Christ. The born again experience is what causes love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. Unfortunately, after revival many of the teachers left the main thing (focusing on salvation through Christ) and got caught up in myths, genealogies, secondary truths, and it led people astray.

a. **Wrong focus on a right topic can lead people to error. These teachers were doing this by focusing on the law.**

b. Dream and angel example from 2002. I knew a man with prophetic gifting who spent almost all of his time studying dreams and angels and not Christ. He began to follow his dreams instead of the written word of God and got into error and led other to error.

4. **Verses 8-11** The rightful use of the law is to show people their sin so they recognize their need for a savior. The wrong use of the law is to shame people or to get them to change their behavior.

a. Many people start in grace and end up in law. Get their eyes off the main thing (Jesus). Ex: Get saved as a drug addict by grace and then relate to God based on law.

B. 1 Timothy 2:12-17 The Power of Grace/Paul's Personal Testimony - Paul reminds Timothy of his testimony and the transformative power of grace as reminder of what happens when we keep the main thing the main thing.

1. **Verse 12** Jesus counted Paul faithful before Paul demonstrated faithfulness and put him into the ministry when Paul was arresting Christians and having them put to death.

a. God sees us in Christ before we are in Christ. He sees what is possible, not just what we are doing.

2. **Verses 13-15** It was the abundant grace of God that transformed Paul from being a blasphemer (one who denies Christ).

a. This saying doesn't mean Paul was still sinner after he was born again. He was describing his pre-born again experience and this saying needs to be circulated in the churches. Everyone needs to remember what God saved them from.

b. Part of discipling someone is sharing from your experience. Paul did this with Timothy.

3. **Verses 16-17** Paul closes this portion of the letter by emphasizing the mercy of Jesus (keeping the main thing the main thing) and honoring Jesus for how amazing He is. He is king, immortal, eternal, and invisible!

III. Conclusion - Paul talks about being deceived of the simplicity of in Christ in **2 Corinthians 11:3**. Leadership (including leading yourself) can get complex, which is why we must be intentional about keeping it simple. In the kingdom, it's all about the finished work of Christ.

A. Musician come up and play

B. Offering Verse - **Galatians 3:13-14**

C. Call Up Prayer team

