SERIES: 1 Timothy

"The Wrong Way to Use the Bible"

1 Timothy 1:3-7

Paul's Charge to Timothy: Guard the Gospel

- If we lose the gospel, we lose **everything**.
- We guard the gospel by how we use God's <u>Word</u>.

How Were the False Teachers Misusing God's Word? (1:3-4, 6-7)

- They were teaching a different <u>doctrine</u>. (3)
- They devoted themselves to a different <u>authority</u>. (4)
 - They were focused on the <u>wrong</u> things...
 - They focused on myths and endless genealogies.
 - This produces speculation and arguments.
 - Which distracted them from the **main** thing...
 - They were failing to teach God's **truth**.
 - They were failing to lead God's **people**.
 - They were failing to advance God's **gospel**.
- They wandered away from love into meaningless talk. (5-6)
 - This produces <u>endless</u> controversies.
 - This produces **empty** conversations.
- They wanted the recognition of being a teacher without being able to teach. (7)
 - This produces ignorance and <u>arrogance</u> among those who teach.
 - This produces confusion and <u>deception</u> among those who hear.

What Was Paul's Ultimate Goal in Correcting These False Teachers? (1:5)

- Right teaching should produce **love** among God's people. (5)
 - Love flows from...
 - A <u>pure</u> heart cleansed from sin.
 - Has your heart been cleansed from sin?
 - Has your heart been changed by the Holy Spirit?
 - A **good** conscience clear of guilt.
 - Is your greatest desire to obey God?
 - Is your greatest motivation to please God?
 - A **sincere** faith free from hypocrisy.
 - Do you genuinely trust God?
 - Is your life consistent with your **lips**?
- The key to truly loving God is to truly know God.
 - The greatest need of the church today is not less doctrine, but more doctrine.
 - The more you <u>learn</u> about God, the more you should <u>love</u> God.

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