

LAW & GOSPEL

From the series – 1 TIMOTHY: EVERY MOMENT, EVERY DAY

SUMMARY...

The church in Ephesus is on the brink of becoming an unhealthy church. Leaders within the church who cared more about being ‘known’ as ‘teachers of the law’ were beginning to lead people astray from the gospel of Jesus Christ shaping every moment, every day. The Apostle Paul in a few short verses seeks to clarify for the leaders in Ephesus and all of us as well how God’s law is to be used to help people see and savor the work of the Savior, Jesus Christ. Ultimately we learn that:

#1 – The Law of God helps us understand the way of God. The law helps us understand good and evil, right and wrong. Review the [Ten Commandments](#) – they help us understand how to love God and love our neighbor.

#2 – The Law of God reveals our sin and need for Jesus. The law helps us see that we are ALL law-breakers. And when laws are broken, there are consequences. In [Romans 6:23](#), the Apostle Paul helps us understand that spiritual death, or eternal separation from God, is the consequence of breaking God’s Laws. But the good news that Paul proclaims is that the free gift from God is Jesus, the one who obeyed the Law of God perfectly and then paid the penalty for us breaking the Law.

BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION

1. Read [1 Timothy 1:7](#) – what is behind the teachers’ desire to be ‘known?’ Paul makes clear these teachers don’t know what they’re talking about, yet it does not stop them from talking. Why is the desire to be ‘known’ so powerful? Why, if unchecked, is this desire dangerous, both to us and those around us?
2. Read [Acts 20:20-21 & 28-31](#) – What stands out to you about Paul’s farewell address to the leaders in Ephesus? Would you rather be told what you need to hear, or would you prefer people telling you what you want to hear? Why is it so difficult to choose the former? And how might you respond to Paul’s warning about ‘false teachers’ rising up from within the church?
3. Read [1 Timothy 1:8-11](#) – the Apostle Paul wanted the church (us as well) to understand the ‘proper’ and ‘improper’ use of God’s Law. How do you understand God’s law and how are we to relate to God’s law today as followers of Jesus?
4. Ultimately, Paul’s message to the Ephesian church was ‘repent, turn to God, and keep trusting Jesus.’ Why is this message critical to helping you experience the gospel every moment, every day? What trips you up, or what practical steps can you take to follow this exhortation?