

**DEAR TIMOTHY: Love Them.**

Text: 1 Timothy 1:1-20 (page 991)

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If we lose the Gospel, we lose everything.

It is on the basis of grace, mercy and peace that God addresses us.

**Belief determines behavior:** If you believe in something other than the Gospel, your behavior will not, and cannot, reflect the Gospel.

**Purpose of the law:**

Restrain wrongful acts.

Make us aware of our predisposition to sin.

Show us God's standards.

Whenever we play Jenga with God's word, we fail to see the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

**Wage the good warfare:**

First - Hold on to the Faith.

Second - Have a good conscience.

**Food for Thought for the week of July 2, 2017**

(Questions and Scriptures for further study and discussion.)

1. Answer these "context" questions using a Study Bible:  
Who is Paul? And Timothy?  
What year did Paul write this letter?  
What do we need to know about Ephesus?  
Why did Paul write to Timothy?
2. How did their culture at that time mirror ours today? What are the pertinent similarities?
3. What is "God's work" that we read about in verses 4-5? How may you personally need to adjust to His work in and through your life?
4. Read 1 Timothy 3:15. What is "God's Household" to be? How are we doing at PV? What do we collectively need to be about? What do we need to stop or start focusing on? Note: This is not an opportunity to blame others but to adjust our own hearts to Him!
5. What is the purpose of the Law? Verses 8-11
6. What is the Gospel? What do you do to keep your focus on it? What typically pulls you off track?
7. What will you do with what God has spoken to you?

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