

## Guard Sound Doctrine

### 1 Timothy 1:3-11\*

Paul's preoccupation in this first chapter is with the importance of maintaining true or 'sound' doctrine, and of refuting 'false' doctrine. This differentiation strikes a discordant note [in our times]. It is not only that most societies are increasingly pluralistic in fact (an ethnic and religious mix), but that 'pluralism' as an ideology is increasingly advocated as 'politically correct'. This affirms the independent validity of every religion as a culturally conditioned phenomenon, and frowns on any attempt to convert people. Indeed, one of the chief tenets of 'postmodernism' is that there is no such thing as objective truth, let alone universal and eternal truth. On the contrary, everybody has his or her own truth. You have yours, and I have mine, and they may diverge widely from each other, even contradict each other. In consequence, the most prized virtue is tolerance. It tolerates everything except the intolerance of those who insist that certain ideas are true and others false, while certain practices are good and others evil.

No follower of Jesus Christ can possibly embrace this complete subjectivism. For he said he was the truth, that he had come to bear witness to the truth, that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth, and that the truth will set us free. So truth matters, the truth which God has revealed through Christ and by the Spirit. Jesus also told us to beware of false teachers. So did his apostles.<sup>1</sup>

#### ☞ *The battle for the truth (3-4)*

#### ☞ *The goal of the battle (5-7)*

#### ☞ *The role of Law in the battle (8-11)*

## 1 Timothy

*Secure sound doctrine & sustain sound discipline (3:15)*

Outline:

- I. The Salutation (1:1-2)
- II. The Church & Doctrine (1:3-20)
  - A. Guard correct teaching (1:3-7)
  - B. Guard sound teaching (1:8-11)
  - C. Christ Jesus can use . . . even you! (1:12-17)
  - D. Fight the Good Fight! (1:18-20)
- III. The Church & Public Worship (2:1-15)
  - A. Instructions concerning prayer (2:1-7)
  - B. Instructions concerning men and women (2:8-15)
- IV. The Church & Pastoral Oversight (3:1-16)
  - A. The Lord's leaders (3:1-7)
  - B. The Lord's servants (3:8-13)
  - C. The Lord's construction (3:14-15)
  - D. God's central glory (3:16)
- V. The Church & a Pastor's Challenges (4:1-16)
  - A. Fraudulent faith (4:1-5)
  - B. A good minister (4:6-10)
  - C. Advice to a young pastor (4:11-16)
- VI. The Church in Diversity (5:1-6:5)
  - A. Generational responsibilities (5:1-16)
  - B. Help for Elders (5:17-25)
  - C. Sound words for slaves (6:1-5)
- VII. The Church & Final Exhortations (6:6-21)
  - A. The cost of riches (6:6-10; 17-19)
  - B. O Man of God! (6:11-16; 20-21)

\* These notes are prayerfully prepared to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's word.

<sup>1</sup> John R. W. Stott, *Guard the Truth: The Message of 1 Timothy & Titus*, Includes Study Guide: P. [215]-232., *The Bible speaks today* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1996), 42.