

Study Notes for I Timothy 1: 1-11

Read through the first 11 verses.

- What seems to be Paul's major concern as expressed in these first verses?
- How does Paul refer to himself in 1:1? Why do you think he does this, since he's writing to someone he's worked with and is a good friend?
- What does the language of 1:1 tell you about how Paul saw his calling to be an apostle?
- How does Paul characterize Christ in 1:1 and how does he describe God the Father? Why are those descriptions significant?
- How does Paul describe Timothy in 1:2 and what does that description tell you about their relationship?
- How important do you feel it is to have someone in your life who is an older and more mature spiritual mentor?
- What is significant about each element of the greeting that Paul gives in 1:2?
- For what reason did Paul tell Timothy to stay on in Ephesus?
- According to 1:4 what was going on in Ephesus and why was it a problem?
- What kinds of distractions do you see believers getting drawn after today?
- According to 1:4–5, what is one way to determine if a teaching is valid and true?
- How would you define ...
 - a "pure heart"?
 - a "good conscience"?
 - a "sincere faith"?
- How does someone "wander away" from these things?
- Who is Paul describing in 1:7? What does he tell us about them?
- Why would someone want to teach something they didn't understand? Why would they "confidently affirm" something they had no real comprehension of?

- How does someone use the Law properly? How about improperly?
- For whom is the law intended, according to 1:9–10?
- Why is the indwelling presence of the Spirit superior to the Law of Moses?
- What is “sound doctrine” according to the Apostle Paul? (See v10)
- How can you tell if a doctrine today is sound or not? What “tests” does Paul mention in 1:3–11?
- What is your overall impression of 1:1–11? How is it significant that Paul starts out his letter in this way?
- Do you think you would have enjoyed being in Timothy’s position at Ephesus? Why, or why not?