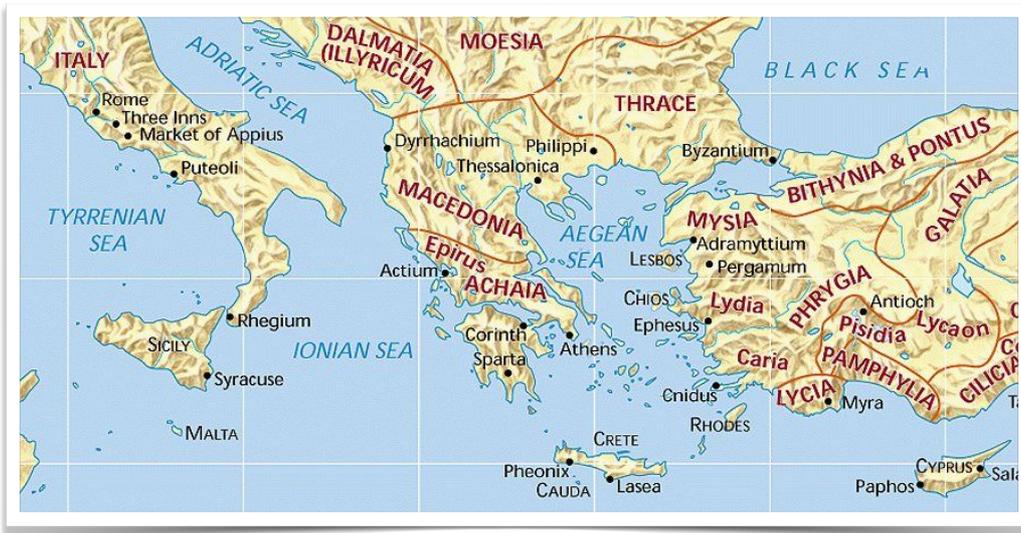


STUDY 1

FORBID DIFFERENT DOCTRINES!

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To describe the relationship between the apostle Paul and Timothy.
- ❖ To be able to define a doctrine and in particular what constitutes a *sound* doctrine.
- ❖ To describe what is meant by the term *progressive revelation* and how the writings of Paul contributed to it.
- ❖ To explain the link between false doctrine and immorality.



BACKGROUND

The apostle Paul had been taken to Rome as a prisoner and was under house arrest awaiting his trial before Caesar Nero (Acts 25:11-12). On the way, he had left Timothy in Ephesus to deal with two problems in the church there. The first was the threat of false teachers and the second was the leadership structure of the church. His two letters to Timothy were written fairly close together and were obviously designed to be publicly read to the church. Thus, as Timothy carried out Paul's instructions it would have been clear to everyone that he was doing so with apostolic authority.

INSTRUCTION

Objective 1. To describe the relationship between the apostle Paul and Timothy.

1. Note First Timothy 1:1-2. From what we read in verse 2, and Second Timothy 1:2, how might we describe the relationship between Paul and Timothy?

2. Based on what Paul wrote to Timothy in Second Timothy 4:9-15 how much did Paul care about Timothy? Explain.

3. How would Paul's description of himself have added to the authority that Timothy had with the Ephesians? (Refer to First Timothy 1:1)

4. What challenges might Timothy have faced from being mentored by Paul? Reflect and discuss.

Objective 2. To be able to define a doctrine and in particular what constitutes a *sound* doctrine.

A doctrine is a _____ g. In the Christian sense, it is a teaching that claims to be derived from the _____ e.

5. In First Timothy 1:3, Paul instructs to Timothy charge ("command") *certain* people to stop teaching "different" doctrine? What would constitute *different* doctrine? (Refer to Galatians 1:6-7.) Discuss.

6. How does Paul later describe those who teach a *different* doctrine in First Timothy 6:3-5?



Christian doctrine is derived by considering the *overall* message of Scripture rather than being based on a single (sometimes obscure) verse of Scripture. The main doctrines of the Bible are the plain doctrines of the Bible! That is, they stated, or illustrated *many times* in many ways throughout the Bible.

7. What are some of the main doctrines of the Bible which makes Christianity distinct from all other religions? Discuss.

Someone has estimated that despite there being so many Christian denominations (who usually have at least one point of doctrinal difference with another denomination), they all have 85% agreement of what constitutes *sound doctrine*.

Objective 3. To describe what is meant by the term *progressive revelation* and how the writings of Paul contributed to it.

Progressive revelation means that the Lord chose to reveal His identity and plan of salvation in stages.

8. Put the following 8 stages of God's progressive revelation in sequential order:

___ God sent His Son, born of a virgin, to be the Saviour of the world.

___ God called Abram to move to Canaan to begin a family in what would one day become Israel.

___ God gave the apostle Paul revelation and insight into His plan of salvation through Christ which he then showed in his various epistles how Jesus was indeed the promised messiah who was the Saviour of both Jews and Gentiles, who God was now making one people.

___ God spoke directly to mankind and gave them just two commands.

___ God called Moses to deliver Israel out of Egypt and to write down His laws which would be based on ceremonies and animal sacrifices.

___ God instructed the apostle John to record that the day will come when God will resurrect and judge all mankind and the redeemed will enter into their eternal bliss where there will be no more sin, pain, sorrow, or weeping, and they will each have unimpeded access to God.

___ God sent prophets to His rebellious people and called some of them to write historical and prophetic contributions to His Word. Several of them foretold of the coming Saviour who would be the Son of God.

___ God used eyewitnesses and others who verified with eye-witnesses about the life, ministry, and atoning work of Christ, to write down 'Gospels'.

God used the apostle Paul to show others that all that happened in the Old Testament were _____s of what Christ was to do (Col. 2:17, 1Cor. 10:1-6).

9. According to First Timothy 1:5, what is the fruit that comes from living according to sound doctrine?
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Objective 4. To explain the link between false doctrine and immorality.

The ultimate false doctrine recorded in the Old Testament was _____y. As you read through the Old Testament you will notice that there is a repeated link between idolatry and _____l _____y (note Colossians 3:5; 1Peter 4:3).

10. Considering First Timothy 1:9-10, what does embracing false teaching often lead to, and why might this be?
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APPLICATIONS

Discuss-

11. Timothy was mentored by Paul. Are you being mentored? If so, what do you find most challenging about it?
12. Timothy was instructed by Paul to correct those teaching false doctrine. Have *you* ever been corrected by someone who did it well? If so, how did they do it? If not, how would you have *preferred* to have been corrected?
13. Paul could take it for granted that Timothy knew what *sound* doctrine was. Why could he take it for granted? If you were called up to defend the doctrines of Christianity, which one might you struggle with and why?