

The Purpose of the Commandment Is Love from a Pure Heart

Grace Chapel September 13, 2009 Dr. John Niemelä

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION TO 1 TIMOTHY

Author = the Apostle Paul

Recipients

Immediate recipient = Timothy

Indirect recipients = the church at Ephesus

Cf. 2 Timothy 1:1

Cf. 2 Timothy 4:22

The Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your_{sg} spirit. Grace *be* with you_{pl}. Amen.

Place of writing = Macedonia

Destination = Ephesus

Date and Circumstances of writing

Paul is free from prison in Rome (March A.D. 62) Acts 28:30–31

Paul had come to Ephesus (and probably Colossae)

1 Timothy 1:3 and Philemon 22

Paul then went to Macedonia and extended his stay there

(Philippians 2:24 says he planned the trip there; 1 Timothy 1:3 says he came to Macedonia; probably returning to Ephesus in spring AD 64

Paul probably wrote the letter in the fall of A.D. 62

Background on Timothy, the man

Paul first met Timothy in Lystra in A.D. 50 (1 Corinthians 16:1ff.)

This is twelve years later

(1:1–2) Paul greets Timothy with grace, mercy, and peace from the Father and the Son

(1:3) Paul left Timothy at Ephesus to warn teachers against teaching falsely

(1:4) [Paul also left Timothy at Ephesus to warn teachers against myths and endless genealogies—which produce arguments, rather than building people up in faith

(1:5) [By contrast with speculative arguments that arise from false teaching] the goal of [Paul's] command is that believers exhibit morally pure love arising from a good conscience and from unhypocritical faith

(1:6) Some have strayed from [morally pure love arising from a good conscience and from unhypocritical faith] into [proclaiming] useless words

(1:7) The reason some have strayed into proclaiming idle words is because (though they desire to teach the law) they understand neither what they say nor what they affirm

(1:8) [In contrast with the uselessness of what these teachers proclaim] the law is good when it is used lawfully

(1:9–10) The reason the law is good when used lawfully is that it is not designed for righteous people, but for sinners of all types

(1:11) The basis for saying that the law is not designed for righteous people, but for sinners of all types is God's glorious good news message (with which Paul was entrusted)

CONCLUSION