

Sermon Notes for September 27, 2015

**Sermon Series On I Timothy
For The Love Of The Church
“The Need For The Church To Teach Sound Doctrine”
I Timothy 1:8-11**

Introduction

A. We Continue Our Sermon Series On; For The Love Of The Church, In I Timothy

1. Why are we studying this particular book of the Bible?
 - a. **I and II Timothy** are commonly called **“The Biblical Books of Church Order”**
 1. for, in these books, the Apostle Paul explained to his disciple Timothy how a church is to function
 2. in this first letter to Timothy, Paul will speak to Timothy about:
 - a. direction about worship
 - b. the ministry of elders and deacons
 - c. the place of women in the church
 - d. ministry to the needy
 - e. how to handle money
 - b. one of the issues that is driving us to study this particular book is that I want all of us to understand the vital importance of the church in the life of the Christian
 1. as I said a few weeks ago, I believe that many, many Christians now look at the church as “an option”
 2. it is as if people are saying: “If I don’t have anything else to do, I will attend church.”
 3. it seems as if consumerism in America has made its way into the church
 - c. ultimately, I am afraid of the future of the church in America
 1. the Barna group has determined that in 2004, some 43% of all Americans attended church; today, it is 36%.
 2. at a mission conference last year in England, a British Pastor Said to me that “England is 20 years ahead of where the American church is going.”
 - a. in England, the church, for many, is not even an option any more
 - b. people no longer see the need to go to a particular place to worship
 - c. it seems as if in America, we are on the “same road”
 - d. let me remind us all, once again, what the church is:
 1. this is **the church that Jesus came to this earth to die for**
 2. this is **the church that Jesus has given spiritual gifts to serve the Church and the world**
 3. this is **the church through whom the gospel of salvation will Come**

4. this is **the church that is the Bride of Christ, that will be united to the groom, the Lord Jesus Christ, in heaven**
2. **THE CHURCH IN AMERICA NEEDS TO HEAR THESE WORDS FOUND IN THE BOOK OF FIRST TIMOTHY**

B. Today, We Are Going To Look At The Need Of The Church To Embrace The Law of God; Ten Commandments

1. many churches in America seem to have abandoned the teaching of The Ten Commandments
2. while I do not see the need to plaster the Ten Commandments in every school and courthouse in America, I do see a lessening of importance of the Ten Commandments in the American church
 - a. you get the sense that many churches are afraid to call believers to obey the Ten Commandments
 - b. or, to make believers feel guilty about **NOT** obeying the Ten Commandments
 - c. as if the “worst” thing that a preacher can do in today’s church is to make someone “feel bad”
3. **TODAY, WE ARE GOING TO SEE THE CRITICAL NEED OF THE BIBLICAL CHURCH TO EMPHASIZE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS; BOTH FOR THE BELIEVER BUT ESPECIALLY TO THE NON-BELIEVER.**

I. The JUSTNESS OF THE LAW

A. The GOODNESS OF THE LAW

Vs. 8 – “We know that the Law is **good** if one uses it properly.”

1. there is a great debate among Christians as to whether we are to even to obey the Ten Commandments because we are in “the time of the New Testament”
 - a. “After all, are we not “under grace” and no longer “under Law?”
 - b. “The Law was given in the Old Testament and aren’t we now living in the time of the New Testament?”
2. please note that the Apostle Paul calls the Law “good”
 - a. in actuality, Paul calls the Law “more than good”
 1. for he uses the greek word, **kalos**
 2. the meaning of the greek word kalos is “exponential”
 - a. beautiful, handsome
 - b. eminent, surpassing
 - c. precious, admirable
 - d. noble
 3. look at what the Bible says about the Law of God:
 - a. **Psalm 19:8** – “The precepts of the LORD are **right**, giving joy to the heart. The **commands of the LORD** are **radiant**, giving light to the eyes.”
 - b. **Psalm 119:1-176**
 - c. **Romans 7:14** - “We know that the Law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.”

B. The GENRE OF THE LAW (By John Calvin)

1. the **First** use of the Law; **the pedagogical use of the Law**

- a. John Calvin said that the Law is a “mirror,” in that people see ourselves as they actually are compared to that Law
- b. so; when the unbeliever sees how perfect and demanding the Law is;
 1. he sees his sin and realizes that he cannot keep the Law in his own power
 2. and is forced to fall on Jesus for His grace
- c. this is called the view of “the schoolmaster”
 1. the teacher calls the student to understand a problem so that he sees his lack of true understanding
 2. me with a math problem
 - a. I see my wife who is a math teacher grading papers
 - b. I then fully realize that I am not a “math person”

2. the **Second** use of the Law – **the civil use of the Law**

- a. part of the ministry of the Ten Commandments is to give all people in all cultures rules to live by
- b. almost every culture in the world follows the teachings of the Ten Commandments
- c. these Commandments keep people all over the world around us from living lawless lives
- d. what would happen to our world if there were no laws to obey?

3. the **Third** use of the Law – **the normative use of the Law**

- a. the “Third use of the law” is directed at believers in Jesus Christ
- b. you may ask; why does the believer in Jesus Christ “need” to still follow the Ten Commandments?
 1. “Don’t we have the Holy Spirit to guide us?”
 2. “Don’t we “want to” follow Jesus?”
 3. “Why do believers need rules to live by?”
- c. this is easily answered when the believer sees the “**deeper meaning of the Law:**” as seen in the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount
 1. the “**deeper**” view of the **Sixth Commandment:**
Matthew 5:21-22 - "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, '**Do not murder**, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is **angry with his brother** will be subject to judgment.”
 2. the “**deeper**” view of the **Seventh Commandment:**
Matthew 5:27-28 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that **anyone who looks at a woman lustfully** has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”
- d. in essence, if believers truly look at the “deeper meaning” of **EACH** of the Ten Commandments, we, as believers, break them all; all of the time!
 1. I want to challenge each of us to go home today and look at the “deeper meaning” of **EACH** of the Ten Commandments
 2. you **will see** that you and I break them all, all of the time

II. The JUSTICE OF THE LAW

A. The LAW OF GOD REGARDING THE BELIEVER

Vs. 9a– “We also know that law is made not for the righteous.””

1. in this text, as Paul refers to the Law of God, it seems as if he is not talking about the Law of God as it relates to the believer
2. it is inconceivable to me that Paul would be saying that the believer does not need to follow the Ten Commandments at all
3. instead, it seems that Paul is referring to the “first and second” use of the Law, that is directed at non-believers

B. The LAW OF GOD REGARDING THE UNBELIEVER

1. here, we must understand **why** the Apostle Paul directs his comments about the Ten Commandments to the unbeliever
 - a. for, based on what the Apostle Paul is saying about the Law of God and the unbeliever, we will now see the critical importance of the Law as it affects the unbeliever
 - b. for, the Law of God “reveals” to the unbeliever the holiness and morality of God
 1. many theologians call the Ten Commandments the “moral law of God”
 - a. in that, these Ten Commandments are God’s morals; God’s morality
 - b. so that when the Ten Commandments are placed in front of the unbeliever, he “sees” just how far he is **from** God’s morality
 - c. as **John Calvin** says, when the unbeliever looks into the “mirror” and sees who he is “morally,” he sees that he is truly a sinner
 2. now, if the Law of God **is** a “mirror” for the unbeliever to see his sin, then he will be forced to run to Jesus for help
 - a. one of my real concerns for the church today is that many, many preachers do not want people to ever feel badly about themselves when they come to church
 - b. now, let me ask you a question; why will a sinner ever see the need for Jesus if he always feels good about himself and never understands the extent of his sins?
 - c. essentially, what the Apostle Paul is saying in this text today is how the Ten Commandments actually “judge” and “expose” the unbeliever
 1. so that the unbeliever sees how hopeless he is compared to God’s morality as seen in the Ten Commandments and, realizes how much he needs Jesus
 2. **THIS IS THE MESSAGE OF OUR TEXT TODAY!**
 - a. it is not only that the unbeliever fails to obey the Law of God
 - b. it is that the unbeliever does not obey the Law of God because he is not saved and needs the gospel!

- c. look at the verse that follows our text today:
I Timothy 1:12-13 – “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that He considered me faithful, appointing me to His service. **Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.**”
- 2. Paul has no interest in “bashing” the non-believer
 - a. he, himself, was an unbeliever
 - b. and, because he, himself, could not truly obey the Law, he, too, had to run to Jesus to receive His grace
- 3. notice now that Paul describes the attitude of the true non-believer
 - a. as one who CANNOT truly obey the Law
 - b. let me say to each and every one of you today, you need to be honest and see if the Apostle Paul is describing you
 - 1. as the Apostle Paul describes the attitude of the unbeliever
 - 2. see if you relate to these attitudes

C. The LAW OF GOD REPRESENTING THE UNGODLY

1. the spiritual description of the ungodly

Vs. 9 – “We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for **lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious.**”

a. “law breakers”

- 1. lawless
- 2. insubordinate
- 3. to live as if there is no Law
- 4. we have clearly seen this in the lives of the Mafia and practices of ISIS
- 5. this person says: NO ONE IS GOING TO TELL ME HOW TO LIVE!

b. “rebels”

- 1. those who do not want to be in obedience to anyone and anything
- 2. and, when confronted with a law, they will refuse to obey
- 3. **we all** have an element of rebel in our hearts
 - a. “Do not walk on the grass.”
 - b. “Do not think of a pink elephant.”

c. “ungodly”

- 1. this is the person who is devoid of a reverence for God and His Law
- 2. they laugh at the thought the there is a God; as if it is absurd
- 3. there is a disdain that someone even believes in a God; (my experience in East Berlin in 1996)

d. “sinful”

- 1. this refers to the person who willfully walks away from the Godly path
- 2. they have a choice to make and **ALWAYS** choose the ungodly one

3. this is the struggle of a believing parent with an unbelieving child
 - a. you ask your child to make a Godly decision, and, yet, for some reason, they walk the other way
 - b. this describes me in high school before I was saved
 1. I had a Godly mother who called me to walk in God's ways; and, I chose the opposite
 2. the time that my mother made me kneel by my bed to pray
 - e. **“the unholy”**
 1. this is the person who has no sense of right and wrong: no “scruples”
 2. there is nothing that is seen as sacred, holy and special
 3. there is no sense of the sanctity for life
 - a. this is how I can explain the practice of abortion; there is no sacredness of life
 - b. however, look what happens to a person when they get saved: they begin to see abortion as murder; just as God sees it.
 - f. **“the irreligions”**
 1. profane
 2. the greek word here speaks of the threshold of a door
 - a. a threshold is that which is trampled upon when you walk through the door
 - b. the profane person is one whose life is trampled on by every form of sin
 - c. this person has no control from being profane
 1. this person reacts with profanity when under pressure
 2. taking God's name in vain; it is as if they cannot help it and don't care
2. **the spiritual sins of the ungodly**
- Vs. 9b-10 – “For those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers”**
- a. breaking the **Fifth Commandment of not honoring their parents**

Vs. 9 – “We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers,”

 1. patricide or matricide
 2. **Nero** had his mother stabbed to death for treason
 3. **Lyle and Erik Menendez**; August 20, 1989, killed their parents to get their money
 - b. breaking the **Sixth Commandment of not killing**

Vs. 9 – “We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers,”

- c. breaking the **Seventh Commandment of not committing adultery**
Vs. 10 – “for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers--and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine”
1. **“for adulterers”**
 - a. from the greek word pornos, where we get the word; pornography
 - b. this word refers to **any** sexual sin
 1. adultery
 2. fornication
 3. pornography
 2. **“for perverts”**
Vs. 10 - “for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers--and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine”
 - a. this greek word is made up of two different words
 1. male
 2. to be in bed with
 - b. these two words refer to two men being in the same bed in a sexual way
 - c. this greek word is obviously referring to the sin of homosexuality
- d. breaking the **Eighth Commandment of not stealing**
Vs. 10a – “for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers”
1. the sin of stealing a person to make them a slave
 2. the entire South was guilty of this particular sin before the Civil War
 - a. Africans were CLEARLY stolen from their country and brought to this country “to be slaves”
 - b. **BASED ON THE TEACHING IN THIS TEXT, THERE WOULD BE NO DEFENSE WHATSOEVER FOR ANYONE IN THE SOUTH TO SUPPORT SLAVERY DURING THE CIVIL WAR!**
 3. my recent trip to Ghana
 - a. the Castle
 - b. where Africans were bought to be shipped to other parts of the world as slaves
 - c. slides 1-4
 - d. as one who grew up in Mississippi, it was horrific to see what my state was involved with
- e. breaking the **Ninth Commandment of not bearing false witness to your neighbor**
Vs. 10a – “for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers”

1. **“and liars”**
 - a. the word for liars actually refers to one who manipulates
 1. those who are “fast and loose with the truth” in order to get their way
 2. ultimately, those who do not tell the “total truth”
 - b. based on this greek word, there is no such thing as a “white lie”
2. **“and perjurers”**
 - a. this is the person who makes a promise to another and does not keep that promise
 - b. whether they are under oath in a court of law or whether they make a promise to a friend that they do not keep
3. the **spiritual summation of the sins of the ungodly**

Vs. 10 – “for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers--**and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine**”

 - a. in this last phrase in verse 10, it was as if the Apostle Paul wanted to “expose” any other area of sin that the ungodly were guilty of; that he had not covered
 - b. for, Paul says, “as well as anything else that **is contrary to the sound doctrine**”
 1. please realize that there is an article before the words, sound doctrine
 - a. and, what is sound doctrine, but **THE WORD OF GOD?**
 - b. Paul is not referring to any other book of religion, any other faith, other than the Word of God
 2. also, please notice that the words, sound doctrine, are some interesting words
 - a. it comes from the greek word; **hugiano**
 1. from where we get the word, hygiene
 2. to take care of oneself
 - b. essentially, true Biblical doctrine is:
 1. healthy
 2. helpful
 3. “hygienic”
 - c. so, the person who does **not** live according to the Word of God is
 1. unhealthy
 2. and, even “unhygienic”
 4. now, let me pause again and be very, very direct with all of you today
 - a. you may “think” that you are a Christian; you may think that you are saved

- b. **HOWEVER**, if these attitudes describe you and your “true heart;” **THEN YOU ARE NOT SAVED!**
 - 1. you may be “squeaky clean” on the outside
 - 2. but; you are:
 - a. a law breaker
 - b. one who rebels against any rule
 - c. one who hates other people
 - d. one who is sexually perverse
 - e. one who lies
 - f. one who talks about others behind their back
 - 3. if this describes you
 - a. give up becoming better in your own power
 - b. run to Jesus; only He can save you

III. The JUSTNESS OF THE LAW OF GOD

A. The LAW DRIVES US THE GOSPEL

1. now, for those of you who want to separate the Law of God as given in the Old Testament and the Gospel of Jesus as given in the New Testament; NOTICE WHAT PAUL SAID IN VERSE 10:

Vs. 10b – “and for whatever else is contrary to **the sound doctrine**”

- a. **WHAT ELSE COULD** sound doctrine be but the **ENTIRE WORD OF GOD; INCLUDING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS?**
- b. and, then look at what Paul says in verse 11!

Vs. 11 – “**that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which He entrusted to me.**”

I actually like the translation of the **Amplified Bible for verses 10-11** – “for impure and immoral persons, those who abuse themselves with men, kidnappers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is opposed to wholesome teaching and sound doctrine **as laid down by the glorious Gospel** of the blessed God, in the life of the Christian with which I have been entrusted.”

2. **DO YOU REALIZE WHAT PAUL IS SAYING ABOUT THE CONNECTION OF THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL?**
 - a. the Law of God as given by Moses does **not** contradict or deny the gospel that was given by Jesus Christ!
 - b. it is not as if we have an “Old Testament God of Law” and a “New Testament God of grace!”
3. **HERE IN IS THE LESSON THAT PAUL HAS FOR US IN THIS TEXT:**
 - a. **THE PURPOSE** of the Law in the life of the unbeliever is that they “see” their sins by “comparing” their sinful lives **with** the Ten Commandments
 - b. and, this happens **EVERY TIME** that the unbeliever sees the Ten Commandments; he realizes that **HE DOES NOT OBEY GOD’S LAWS!**
 - c. that is exactly how I felt before I was saved:
 1. I sinned and then looked at the Laws of God, and continued to sin

2. and, try as I might, I COULD NOT STOP SINNING!
3. so, I gave up trying to be perfect and ran to Jesus
- d. quotes:
 1. **John MacArthur** – “**If there is no bad news that men are lost sinners**, there can be no good news of Christ’s redemption.”
 2. **Warren Wiersbe** – “**Law and gospel go together, for the law without the gospel is diagnosis without remedy**; but the gospel without law is only the good news of salvation for people who don’t believe they need it because they have never heard the bad news of judgment.”
 3. **Pastor Steven Cole** – “**By not preaching God’s holy Law, we’ve given self-righteous, contented people the false impression that they can be casual shoppers toward the gospel when, in fact, their condition is desperate.**”
 4. my experience in the seventh grade running the 50 yard dash
 - a. until I was “timed,” I thought I was fast
 - b. until I clocked out at 8.0 seconds (slow motion)
 5. as I said and I will say it again, one of my MAIN CONCERNS about the church of the twenty-first Century is that:
 - a. Preachers are so concerned to offend people that they don’t call people to repent of their sins
 - b. so, why would a person need a Savior if they don’t even hear about their sins?
 6. if you don’t **know** that you are a sinner, you will not **know** that you need a SAVIOR!

B. The GOSPEL ENABLES US TO OBEY THE LAW

1. believers MUST REALIZE that the free, gracious gospel “is connected to” the Law of God
 - a. AGAIN; BECAUSE the sinner cannot keep the Law of God perfectly, the sinner runs to the grace of the gospel of Jesus in order to obey the Law
 - b. I love what the Reformer Martin Luther said of the Law/Gospel distinctive:
 1. “Because man is proud, and dreams that he is wise, righteous, and holy, it is necessary that **he should be humbled by the Law** so that **this beast, the presumption of righteousness**, might be slain: **otherwise, man cannot obtain life.**”
 2. “The principal point of the Law in true Christian theology is to **make men not better, but worse – it shows them their sin**, that by the knowledge thereof, they may be humbled, bruised and broken, and by this means driven to comfort, and **so come to that blessed Seed; Christ.**”
2. so, here is the order:
 - a. the Law of God reveals our sin and “drives us” to Jesus and the gracious gospel

- b. so that by trusting in Jesus and His gospel, we are “enabled” to keep the Law.
- 3. THIS IS HOW A PERSON COMES TO CHRIST AND CONTINUES WITH CHRIST
 - a. my story of conversion – after my conversion, I wanted to obey the Ten Commandments!
 - b. Growing in Christ – marks of conversion
 - 1. inner peace
 - 2. new awareness of sin
 - 3. new love for God
 - 4. desire to read the Bible
 - 5. attitude changes
 - 6. sense of forgiveness
 - 7. new concern for others

Conclusion

1. Why **must** a church like Christ Covenant continue to preach that man is a sinner and breaks every one of the Ten Commandments?
 - a. So that the man **CANNOT** feel good about himself
 - b. **BECAUSE NO PERSON WILL EVER GET TO HEAVEN IN THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS!**
2. At Christ Covenant, we **MUST** continue to preach **THE “sound doctrine”**
 - a. so that the self-righteous sinner is **NOT AT EASE**
 - b. and, that by recognizing his sin, the sinner sees the futility of thinking that he can be righteous in his own merit
 - c. and, so that he will run to Christ for His grace
3. **John Bunyan’s Pilgrim Progress**

Then Interpreter took him by the hand and led him into a very large parlor that was full of dust; that had never been swept. After a while, Interpreter called the man to sweep. Now, when the man began to sweep, the dust began to fly about so much that Christian began to choke. Then, Interpreter said to a maid that stood, bring the water and sprinkle the room. When she was done, it was swept and cleaned with pleasure.

CHRISTIAN. Then Christian said; What does this mean?

INTERPRETER. Interpreter answered; this parlor is the heart of a man that was never saved by the sweet grace of the Gospel. The dust is the original sin and inward corruption that has defiled the whole man. He who began to sweep at first is the Law; but she that brought water, and did sprinkle it, is the Gospel. Now, you saw that; as soon as the first began to sweep, the dust did so fly about the room that the room could not be cleansed, and that you were almost choked. This is to show you that the Law, instead of cleansing the heart from sin, did actually overpower you, for you were not able to subdue it.”

But, as you saw the maid sprinkle the room with water, it was cleansed with pleasure. This was to show you that, when the Gospel comes in its sweet and precious influences to the heart, sin is vanquished and subdued and the soul is made clean, through faith. And, consequently one is fit for the King of glory to inhabit.”