

WITH PEOPLE COME PROBLEMS – 1 TIMOTHY 1:18-20

As Paul closes out the first part of his letter to Timothy, he causes him to look back and consider what has been _____ so far. Then, as was his method, he publicly names some trouble-makers and how he chose to deal with them. Here the young pastor in Ephesus is told that the work of the Lord is not a playground but a _____ and must be understood as such. Today's text is a good reminder of what is important in the overall ministration of our local church, and that addressing problem people is _____ at times.

1. This *charge* – 1 Timothy 1:18a

a. ... is a recap of the entire chapter – 1 Timothy 1:3-17

- The importance of sound _____ – verses 3-4
- The importance of the inner man – verse 5
- A warning about false teachers perverting the law – verses 6-7
- The proper use of the law – verses 8-10
- Salvation is by _____ through faith in Christ alone plus nothing, minus nothing—and is totally underserved by the sinner – verses 11-15
- Paul's life is a _____ for the longsuffering and patience every believer and minister will need after salvation when living sincerely for Jesus Christ – verse 16; 4:10
- The Christian life is dedicated to bringing _____ and honour to our great God – verse 17

b. ... was _____ unto him Timothy – 1 Timothy 1:18b-19a

- As Paul's disciple (_____) – verse 18a; Phil. 2:22; 1 Ti. 1:2; 2 Ti. 1:2; 2:1
- As an ordained minister called to pastor – 1 Cor. 12:10; 1 Ti. 4:14; 2 Ti. 1:6
- As a skilled soldier in combat – verse 18b; 1 Cor. 9:7; 2 Cor. 10:4-5; Eph. 6:10; 2 Ti. 2:3-4; Heb. 2:10
- To hold faith and a good conscience – 1 Ti. 1:5; 4:12; Eph. 3:16

2. The problem people are exposed – 1 Timothy 1:19b-20

a. Warning: the outer man can be very poisonous – verse 19b; 6:9; 2 Ti. 2:14, 17a; 3:1-9

- The apostates (one that renounces sound doctrine and adopts false teachings)

Hymenaeus – 2 Ti. 2:17-18

Alexander – a random man in the church at Ephesus, not likely Alexander the Coppersmith...

- These men were self-willed, contentious toward authority, and wanted the preeminence by drawing other Christians into their apostate beliefs – 1 Ti. 6:3-5; 3 Jo. 1:9

- We _____ deal with problem people – verse 20; 1 Cor. 5:4-5; 2 Cor. 10:6; 13:10

Here Paul delivered them unto Satan, that they learn not to blaspheme – Job 1:9-11

It was certainly done through prayer, petitioning God...

It is possible this was an apostolic engiftment given to Paul at that time in history

It probably included prayer and *fasting*

It could have included asking for their resignation or simply put them out of the church...

It likely asked the members to stop fellowshiping with them – 1 Cor. 5:11-13

b. Publicly vs. privately – Mt. 1:18-19; 18:17

- The principal method is to always judge matters with people *justly*...

The goal is always restoration not punishment – Gal. 6:1-10

- Is it necessary and *justified* to make it public?

Always handle matters discreetly and *privately* without disturbing the assembly of the local church whenever possible, as churches are volatile. Consider innocent family members and friends...

c. The biblical method – Mt. 7:1-5; 18:15-20

- First examine yourself under the same judgment you are going to judge another by

This will include quiet time alone with God and an open Bible

This will require you to be gut honest with yourself about what manner of person you really are

- Go to them alone privately and try to work it out
(If the matter is a simple personal offense rather than a trespass or heinous sin and you cannot resolve it after meeting together, then personally accept the hurt or wrong, forgive and pray for them, and commit the situation to the Lord – Mt. 5:43-48; 1 Cor. 6:7-8; Eph. 4:31-32; 1 Peter 2:19-23)

- If that is not effective go back to them with one or two others to work it out
 Often a surprise visit works best as they will not likely schedule a group meeting with you all

- If the controversy still cannot be resolved, then take it to the church...
 Which means to take the contention to the pastors (Presbytery), since you cannot simply stand up in an assembly and expose the issue publicly. The pastor is *responsible* for all public assemblies of the local church.

 The pastors will decide if it is to be a *public* or *private* matter. Practically speaking, it is the Senior Pastor that ultimately judges how such matters are carried out

- Treat the offender as a heathen man and a publican
 Heathen man – have no intimate relationship with them—do not treat them as you would a brother or sister in Christ. However, we treat all lost men with loving care, hoping they will repent and get saved, so we handle them as if they are lost even though they are saved

 Publican – a tax collector... you do not trust them as they are likely to rob you. You have to deal with the IRS agent but you treat him with respect as a human being and do not aggravate him unnecessarily