

The Law Is For The Lawless

1 Timothy 1:8-11

“‘Sin’ really does exist, according to Dr. Karl Menninger. The famous psychiatrist is distressed that modern society tries to figure out its problems and talk about morality without ever mentioning the word ‘sin.’ He is convinced that the only way to raise the moral tone of present-day civilization and deal with the depression and worries that plague clergy, psychiatrists, and ordinary folk is to revive an understanding of what ‘sin’ is.”¹

In fact, Dr. Menninger of the prestigious Menninger Clinic in Kansas wrote a book entitled *Whatever Became of Sin?* His thoughts are appropriate for our consideration as we move to verses eight through eleven of chapter one of 1 Timothy. However, before we do that let us go back and review the first seven verses along with verses eight through eleven.

1 Timothy 1:1-11 NAS:

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope,
² To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
³ As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines,
⁴ nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith.
⁵ But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.
⁶ For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion,
⁷ wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions.
⁸ But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully,
⁹ realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the

¹ Tan, Paul Lee: *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations : A Treasury of Illustrations, Anecdotes, Facts and Quotations for Pastors, Teachers and Christian Workers.* Garland TX : Bible Communications, 1996, c1979.

unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers

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and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,

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according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.

“When John Randolph was dying in Philadelphia, he kept repeating the word, ‘**Remorse! Remorse!**’ He demanded that a dictionary be brought so that he could study the meaning of the word; and, when no dictionary could be found, he had the physician write it out for him on a piece of paper—‘*Remorse.*’

“Remorse is like the ground swell in the ocean after a storm. The storm has subsided, the sky is blue, the air is balmy, there is not a whitecap to be seen; but the ship heaves and tosses and leaves the traveler in misery because of the mighty swell that has remained after the original commotion has subsided. So remorse heaves the soul as the tides heave the ocean.”²

I have seen the old version of the movie, “*A Christmas Carol*,” adapted from the story by Charles Dickens, at least a couple of dozen times. I love that movie and every time I watch it, as I get older, I see a new truth jump out at me that I have not recognized before. If you have seen the movie, you probably remember the pathetic character of Robert Morley, Scrooge’s partner, who had been dead for a number of years. Morley appears to Scrooge wrapped in chains with heavy weights attached to them that Morley must drag around with him for eternity, never to be free of the burden. He explains to Scrooge that sin contributes to such a judgment and that he (Morley) forged that chain link by link throughout his life with each sin he committed. That is a very good analogy of the result of living a sinful life and never repenting of that sin or receiving forgiveness before death.

That is why God gave the “*LAW*” to Moses and the people of Israel. But it was not so that they would know they had to obey a bunch of rules in order to be saved, as most people thought, but rather to understand that they could never obey all the laws of God because they were sinners. They had to have some way of recognizing that God’s Law called for perfection and no one in the world (other than Jesus) could be perfect. Therefore, knowing that they were sinners doomed to Hell if they were not redeemed would cause them to recognize their need for a Savior. The only One that could provide that salvation was Jesus Christ by His perfect sacrifice on the cross.

Now if you are a follower of Jesus Christ and have accepted His death on the cross as payment for your sins, you probably understand this concept. But if you are reading this

² Tan, Paul Lee: Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations : A Treasury of Illustrations, Anecdotes, Facts and Quotations for Pastors, Teachers and Christian Workers. Garland TX : Bible Communications, 1996, c1979.

as a truth seeker, you may still find it somewhat difficult to understand, so let us see if we can clarify it more by providing an example.

Suppose your name is Jedediah and you are living in the year A.D. 30, during the time of Jesus' ministry in Palestine (Israel). You have been brought up as a Jew and have a thorough knowledge of the "**Law**," or it might be more accurate to say the "*diluted Law*," or perhaps even the "*polluted law*." Because, you see, the scribes and other Jewish leaders over the centuries had changed **God's Law** into mankind's law. So they were no longer following the perfect Word of God. Therefore people could be misled by the changes mankind had made to it. Consequently, even though you, Jedediah, have been to all the best schools that money could afford, and even though you have memorized every word of the Law you were taught, you do not have an understanding of the true meaning of the Law. You see, because of what you have been taught, you believe that a good Jew must obey the law with its manmade alterations in order to receive salvation from God. You are further deceived into believing you are a person who obeys the Law perfectly, and for that reason, and because you are a Jew, one of God's chosen people, you think you have a free "*get out of sin card*" and are on your way to Heaven.

The truth is that you are a victim of these "*false teachers*" that Paul refers to in verses three through seven. In other words, you have been taught lies but you do not know that because those teachers have taught you that the lies are true. You have therefore been indoctrinated into believing that a lie is the truth. That is exactly how false religions have grown and thrived over the centuries. Tell a lie often enough and speak it with authority and pretty soon a lot of people will believe it. That is exactly the way Satan promotes evil in this world. He has used the same methods to make evil practices that were once totally unacceptable, acceptable to a new generation. So, the truth be told, that is why Satan is called a "*deceiver*." He has been using the same tactics since the Garden of Eden, and even before, with a great deal of success. So do not feel alone. Millions of people before you have believed the lies of his false teachers, and so will billions after you. You are just one of his many conquests.

You, Jedediah, are therefore the reason that God gave the Law to the world. He did not want you to believe that you could be so good that you could keep all of these laws on your own. He wanted you to read the Law and realize you were a sinner, desperately in need of a Savior. After reading the Law, God wanted you to say, "Oh my God, I am a sinner and therefore there is no way I can receive salvation from You except by Your grace. It is only by Your forgiveness for my sin that I can be made right in Your sight. Please show me how I might receive Your grace, forgiveness, and salvation." That is what God intended for mankind to see in the Law; but mankind, as usual, used God and His Law for their own personal gain. You, therefore, having believed the lie, are on your way to Hell unless you hear and receive God's message that He will provide that grace, forgiveness, and salvation in the person of Jesus Christ. He will send a Savior (Jesus) to pay the penalty and be the Sacrifice for your sin, and if you believe that message, salvation and eternal life in Heaven will be yours, as it will be for every other person who ever lives. Jesus said, "*I came not to call the righteous but sinners*" (Matthew 9:13).³

³ Also see Luke 15:7; 18:9-14; and Titus 3:5.

H. A. Ironside puts it this way: “The law says, ‘Be good, and I will bless you’; grace says, ‘I have blessed you; now be good.’ They are opposites. The law says, “*Do this, and thou shalt live*’; grace says, ‘*Believe this, and thou shalt live.*’ Law demands; grace feely bestows.”⁴

So with that understanding, we may now begin with verse 8 and see just what Paul has to say here about the Law.

1 Timothy 1:8-11 NAS:

⁸ *But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully,*
⁹ *realizing the fact **that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers***
¹⁰ *and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,*
¹¹ ***according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.***

Paul wants to make it clear from the beginning that the “Law” itself is “good.” We see this clearly stated again by Paul in Romans 7:7-12 NLT:

⁷ *Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, “You must not covet.”*
⁸ *But sin used this command to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power.*
⁹ *At one time I lived without understanding the law. But when I learned the command not to covet, for instance, the power of sin came to life,*
¹⁰ *and I died. So I discovered that the law’s commands, which were supposed to bring life, brought spiritual death instead.*
¹¹ *Sin took advantage of those commands and deceived me; it used the commands to kill me.*
¹² *But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good.*

We find further confirmation in Psalm 19:7-11 NLT:

⁷ *The instructions of the Lord are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of*

⁴ H. A. Ironside, *H. A. Ironside Commentary – Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*, (San Diego, CA: Horizon Press, 1947), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 19.

the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

⁸ *The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are clear, giving insight for living.*

⁹ *Reverence for the Lord is pure, lasting forever. The laws of the Lord are true; each one is fair.*

¹⁰ *They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb.*

¹¹ *They are a warning to your servant, a great reward for those who obey them.*

Psalm 119:1-6 NLT:

¹ *Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the Lord.*

² *Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts.*

³ *They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in his paths.*

⁴ *You have charged us to keep your commandments carefully.*

⁵ *Oh, that my actions would consistently reflect your decrees!*

⁶ *Then I will not be ashamed when I compare my life with your commands.*

Matthew 5:17-18 NLT:

¹⁷ *“Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.*

¹⁸ *I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved.*

Jesus Himself speaks to those who have changed His Law for their own purposes.

Matthew 15:3-6 NLT:

³ *Jesus replied, “And why do you, by your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God?”*

⁴ *For instance, God says, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and ‘Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.’*

⁵ *But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, ‘Sorry, I can’t help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.’*

⁶ *In this way, you say they don’t need to honor their parents. And so you cancel the word of God for the sake of your own tradition.*

Mark 7:9 NLT:

Then he said, “You skillfully sidestep God’s law in order to hold on to your own tradition.

Only a person who uses the Law as it should be used can be blessed by it. These false

teachers either forgot or intentionally dismissed what Paul says in verse 9, and that is that the “*law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious.*” The reason these false teachers wasted their time on all kinds of fairy tales concerning their ancestors was that they had never learned to know themselves as *sinners* before God. They were “*puffed up,*” arrogant, boastful, haughty, and self-righteous.⁵ Paul emphasized that theme in several other places in his letters to pastors.

1 Timothy 6:4 NLT:

Anyone who teaches something different is arrogant and lacks understanding. Such a person has an unhealthy desire to quibble over the meaning of words. This stirs up arguments ending in jealousy, division, slander, and evil suspicions.

2 Timothy 3:2 NLT:

For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred.

Titus 1:10 MSG:

For there are a lot of rebels out there, full of loose, confusing, and deceiving talk. Those who were brought up religious and ought to know better are the worst.

That was the big sin, as Paul points out repeatedly. They lacked humility, the awareness of guilt.⁶

Now, getting back to Jedediah, if you are so good that you just naturally keep the law, then you do not need any kind of law. You do not need the law that says “Keep Off The Grass,” nor do you need the law that says, “*Thou shalt not kill*” (Exodus 20:13). Because of course you are one of God’s chosen race, a Jew, and you simply obey all the Law because you are so good. You are unable to understand that the main purpose of the **Mosaic law** was to bring *sinners* to the point where they would feel utterly crushed under the load of their sins.

Do you remember the rich young ruler who came to Jesus and asked him what he must do to inherit eternal life? Jesus told him he would have to keep all the commandments, and the young man told Jesus he had kept all of them perfectly since the time he was a young boy (Mark 10:20). That is very much the way most Jews thought of themselves. They simply did not understand the purpose of the Law. It is not for such people that the Law was given, but for the lawless and rebellious, ungodly and profane, for men who murder fathers and mothers, for those who kill their fellow men, for immoral men, homosexuals, kidnappers, liars, men who break their promises, and any other behavior that is in opposition to the sound doctrine expressed in God’s Law, and basically reflected by the Ten Commandments.

Lawless people are those who do not give God’s Law a second thought. They live as if

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

there were no Law. They do as they please, and they are also **rebellious** by nature. They refuse to live according to any rules they do not find acceptable to their individual lifestyles. They are also **ungodly** which means they do not intend to give any glory to God for anything. The Law was thus given for the lawless and rebellious, for ungodly and sinful persons, so that it might shake them to the very depths of their being and scare them out of their socks causing them to cry out to God, as Paul did, "*Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?*" (Romans 7:24 NLT) "*For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are*" (Romans 3:20 NLT).

One who is "**profane**" (1 Timothy 1:8) is one who does not hesitate *to trample* on what is holy. A good example of a "*profane*" person in the Bible is Esau, who for a single meal sold his birthright with its Messianic implications.⁷

"It is therefore altogether natural to suppose that when Paul mentions *unholy and profane* people, he is thinking of those who ridicule the very idea that there is only one true God, and of those who deny that this God is the Spirit of infinite perfection, that his name, or the name of Christ, should be revered, and that his Sabbath Day should be observed. Those who are unholy and profane ignore the first four commandments of the Law."⁸

Those mentioned are also murderers of parents and as such are breaking the fifth commandment out of the ten: "*Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you*" (Exodus 20:12 NAS). The command gets even more specific in Exodus 21:15 (NAS): "*He who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.*" If you are put to death for striking your father or mother, what must the penalty be for murdering them? So we see that any failure to honor one's parents is condemned.

The Law was also intended for those who kill another human being (murderers). Literally, the original translation from the Greek would be "*for men-slayers.*" The original language refers to anyone who wrongfully takes the life of another. It has reference to *any and all homicides*. The specific commandment that is violated here is the sixth, "*You shall not kill*" (Exodus 20:13). See Christ's interpretation in Matthew 5:21-26 where He equates hating someone with murdering them. How it must have hurt Paul to write this. It brought back to his mind memories of the past, *Paul's own* past where he had condoned the killing of Christians (Acts 9:1, 4, 5; 22:4, 7; 26:10).

Now it is possible when reading 1 Timothy 1:10 to get a little confused because different translations use slightly different words in the English. So to make sure there is no confusion over the wording used to describe the practice of homosexuality, which far too many misguided individuals in this country are trying to pass off as "normal" behavior,

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

we have included here five of the major Bible translations of 1 Timothy 1:10:

Picking up after verse nine, “*Law is made for:*”

The New Revised Standard Version says in verse 10:

fornicators, sodomites, slave traders, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to the sound teaching

The English Standard Version says:

¹⁰*the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,*

The Authorized or King James Version puts it this way:

¹⁰*For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;*

The New American Standard version translates it as:

¹⁰*and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,*

While the New Living Translation says:

¹⁰*The law is for people who are sexually immoral, or who practice homosexuality, or are slave traders, liars, promise breakers, or who do anything else that contradicts the wholesome teaching*

Now most people today seem to understand what is meant here by “*liars, perjurers, promise breakers*” or those who do “*whatever else is contrary to sound teaching.*” But they seem to have trouble with “*immoral, homosexual, fornicators, sodomites,*” and “*whoremongers.*” “*Slave traders*” not only refers to capturing and selling slaves of a different race, but it also includes sex slaves, what we refer to today as “sex trafficking.”

The original Greek word used for “*sexually immoral men*” would be “*πορνοῦντες* [*pornos (por·nos)*]. You probably already hear the similarity to the English word, *pornography*. The Authorized or King James Version translates this word as “fornicator” five times, and as “whoremonger” five times. The words are used to describe a man who prostitutes his body to another’s lust for hire, a male prostitute, a man who indulges in unlawful sexual intercourse, in other words a “fornicator.”⁹

⁹ Strong, James: *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* : Showing Every Word of the Test of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order. electronic ed. Ontario : Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996, S. G4205.

The original Greek word used for “homosexuality” was *arsenokoites* (pronounced ar-sen-ok-oy-tace). There are two occurrences of this Greek word in the New Testament. In one place it is translated as “abuser of (one’s) self with mankind” and in the other place it is rendered, “defile (one’s) self with mankind,” meaning “one who lies with a male as with a female, sodomite, homosexual.”¹⁰

Now because certain elements in the government of our country are bending over backwards, at the time of this writing (2009), to make homosexuality a legitimate and accepted lifestyle, we want to make certain that you know what the Bible has to say about this disgusting and unnatural sexual behavior.

It is important to keep in mind, especially regarding homosexuality, that it is the behavior that God condemns, not the person. Forgiveness and salvation are equally available to the person who commits sexual sins, to the murderer, the liar, the slave trafficker, or any one else. The condition for forgiveness and salvation is belief in the finished work of Christ on the cross for those sins.

While the term “homosexuality” did not come into existence until the nineteenth century, the practice goes back to Genesis 19. The reason some forms of homosexual behavior are referred to as “sodomy,” or as a person “being sodomized,” is because the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were filled with sexual sin, and specifically with what we would today call homosexuality. God brought severe judgment on those cities for their sin, totally destroying them.

When God gave His Laws to Moses He specifically forbade homosexuality (Leviticus 18:22). In the New Testament, we are told that God will judge homosexual behavior and that Christians are not to participate in it (Romans 1:18-32).

It is important to keep one key fact in mind: God Himself designed and ordained sex. He wanted people to enjoy it. But He also knew that to fully enjoy one’s sexuality, a person needs to follow the “operating instructions.” Now if you bought a new, expensive, “four on the floor” Corvette, how would you drive it? Would you follow the operating instructions given by the manufacturer? Or would you follow your own instincts which might include stripping the gears because you don’t feel like putting in the clutch while shifting, or changing the oil only when you feel like it? Would you decide gas is too expensive and decide to use corn oil for fuel? You’re laughing because you think this is ridiculous. Yet, people do equally ridiculous things with God’s gift of sexuality. They do not follow the Manufacturer’s instructions.

God knew that for a person to experience the greatest fulfillment and enjoyment of sexuality it needs to be in the context of one marriage between one man and one woman. A person’s sexual thoughts and fantasies are to revolve around only one person: your spouse. So that puts all other sexual expression in the category of immorality. Immorality

¹⁰ Strong, James: *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Test of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order*. Electronic ed. Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996, S. G733.

therefore includes pornography in all forms (including half the commercials on TV), Internet chat rooms that center on sex, affairs—both emotional and physical, homosexuality, sexual abuse, sex trafficking, rape, hooking up, living together, and any other form of sex outside of heterosexual, monogamous marriage.

Those behaviors (sex outside marriage) only lead to emptiness, disease, addiction, and guilt feelings. They also have a very negative impact on your marriage. In short, not following the Manufacturer's instructions about sex leads to misery in one form or another.

So we see that God's Law was also established for *homosexuals* and *immoral persons, sodomites*. This clearly refers to those who break the seventh commandment, "**You shall not commit adultery**" (Exodus 20:14), which is simply *sexual immorality* in whatever form it may occur. **Adultery** may be defined as any sexual intercourse between two people, at least one of whom is married (Matthew 5:32; 19:9). There is a form of emotional adultery, which some persons like to rationalize away. In an emotional affair, there may not be the physical act, but the emotions are clearly given to someone other than your spouse. It has just as devastating results. Another form of adultery is looking at pornography. Today with the ease of Internet access, many men think they are doing something that no one knows about. Yet it is surprising how often their activity is discovered in some way. These men become hooked and actually experience a sexual addiction. Any psychologist who works with the wives of sex addicts can tell you that for the wife, her husband's indulgence in pornography, whether in *Playboy*, on the Internet, or by watching X-rated videos, is just as devastating as if he were having an affair. That is why Christ said in Matthew 5:28 "*that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.*" Every unclean thought is a form of "*adultery.*" In Ephesians 5:5 the "**fornicator**" or "**immoral person**" is classified in the same category with the impure. God's standard is clear: "*Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge*" (Hebrews 13:4 NAS).

Paul does not end this section in 1 Timothy chapter one on a negative note and neither shall we. It does not matter what you have done, or how many of these behaviors you are guilty of. God still loves you and offers you hope in verse 11: "*according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God.*" Christ Jesus came to earth to "*save sinners*" (1 Timothy 1:15); that is, to give them forgiveness and healing and to help them live a life pleasing to God from this point on. If you are a Christian who has indulged in immoral thoughts and behavior God says, "*If you confess your sins, He is faithful and just to forgive you your sins and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness*" (1 John 1:9). If you are not a Christian, open your heart and life to Christ today and receive His forgiveness. He is waiting for you with outstretched arms.

Save these sections for when you get to future chapters where they fit in:

These "*Doctrines of demons*" (1 Timothy 4:1) were being passed off as God's truth. Paul ridicules them as "*worldly fables fit only for old women*" (John 4:7).

Whatever form this false teaching took, it was contrary to the truth of the Bible. We do not know any of the details about what was taught, but we might be able to piece some of it together from information drawn from other parts of first and second Timothy. According to 1 Timothy 1:7 some of the teaching must have drawn on the Jewish traditions:

"Wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions." (NAS)

It appears from this verse that the false teachers wanted to teach about the Jewish Law.

In 1 Timothy 4:3 we learn that the heresy, which can be defined as a “deviation from the accepted teaching or practice of the Bible,¹¹ involved a phony practice of strict self-denial as a measure of personal and spiritual discipline.¹² These false teachers would make it sound for example like the Bible said people should not get married, or that if they crawled on their knees over broken glass for a quarter of a mile they could be saved. They hoped to earn God’s favor by depriving themselves of things such as food or some sort of pleasure. Let us give you an example of what Paul had to say about these things in Colossians.

Colossians 2:16-23 (MSG):

¹⁶ *So don't put up with anyone pressuring you in details of **diet, worship services, or holy days.***

¹⁷ *All those things are mere shadows cast before what was to come; the substance is Christ.*

¹⁸ *Don't tolerate people who try to run your life, ordering you to bow and scrape, insisting that you join their obsession with angels and that you seek out visions. They're a lot of hot air, that's all they are.*

¹⁹ *They're completely out of touch with the source of life, Christ, who puts us together in one piece, whose very breath and blood flow through us. He is the Head and we are the body. We can grow up healthy in God only as he nourishes us.*

²⁰ *So, then, if with Christ you've put all that pretentious and infantile religion behind you, why do you let yourselves be bullied by it?*

²¹ **"Don't touch this! Don't taste that! Don't go near this!"**

²² *Do you think things that are here today and gone tomorrow are worth that kind of attention?*

²³ *Such things sound impressive if said in a deep enough voice. They even give the illusion of being pious and humble and ascetic. But they're just another way of showing off, making yourselves look important.*

Their preoccupation with **myths** and **genealogies** did not result in any growth in their relationship with God, but rather in a lot of arguing and bickering. Let us jump ahead a few chapters to a description of this very problem.

1 Timothy 6:1-10 (MSG):

¹ *Whoever is a slave must make the best of it, giving respect to his master so that outsiders don't blame God and our teaching for his behavior.*

² *Slaves with Christian masters all the more so—their masters are really*

¹¹ Achtemeier, Paul J.; Harper & Row, Publishers; Society of Biblical Literature: *Harper's Bible Dictionary*. 1st ed. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1985, S. 383.

¹² Merriam-Webster, Inc: *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. Eleventh ed.* Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003.

their beloved brothers! These are the things I want you to teach and preach.

³ *If you have leaders there who teach otherwise, who refuse the solid words of our Master Jesus and this godly instruction,*

⁴ *tag them for what they are: ignorant windbags who infect the air with germs of envy, controversy, bad-mouthing, suspicious rumors.*

⁵ *Eventually there's an epidemic of backstabbing, and truth is but a distant memory. They think religion is a way to make a fast buck.*

⁶ *A devout life does bring wealth, but it's the rich simplicity of being yourself before God.*

⁷ *Since we entered the world penniless and will leave it penniless,*

⁸ *if we have bread on the table and shoes on our feet, that's enough.*

⁹ *But if it's only money these leaders are after, they'll self-destruct in no time.*

¹⁰ *Lust for money brings trouble and nothing but trouble. Going down that path, some lose their footing in the faith completely and live to regret it bitterly ever after.*

Timothy was instructed to teach them not to quibble over words, which accomplishes nothing, and simply causes more confusion and misunderstanding among those who are hearing the message. 2 Timothy 2:16-18 (ESV) points out those teachers should:

¹⁶ *Avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness,*

¹⁷ *and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are **Hymenaeus** and **Philetus**,*

¹⁸ *who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened.*

They are upsetting the faith of some.