

Repeated Words, Themes, and Ideas

1. Jesus, Paul was made an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of mankind's hope: the Lord Jesus Christ, 1:1. The Lord Jesus Christ wishes grace, mercy and peace on Timothy, and by extension, those in Ephesus, 1:2-3. The Lord Jesus Christ considered Paul trustworthy to serve in the ministry, 1:12. Though Paul was an extraordinary sinner, the grace of the Lord was extraordinarily abundant toward him, showering him with faith and love which originate in Christ Jesus, 1:13-14. In Paul's day, there was a Christian saying that everyone accepted, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners," of whom Paul considered himself chief among them, 1:15. Paul received Jesus' mercy and incredible patience as the prototype for all other sinners who will believe in Jesus for everlasting life, 1:16.
2. God, Paul was made an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Savior, 1:1. God our Father wishes grace, mercy and peace on Timothy, and by extension, those in Ephesus, 1:2. The fact that the Mosaic Law was not made for the righteous but the sinful unrighteous is in accord with God's glorious gospel which He committed to Paul's trust, 1:9-11. In light of his extraordinary sinfulness and the incredible mercy and grace Jesus showed him, Paul can't help but heap honor and glory forever and ever upon God, the eternal, immortal, invisible King who alone is wise, 1:12-17.
3. Faith/Doctrine/Truth/Word, Timothy is a true son in the faith, 1:2. Paul left Timothy in Ephesus so that he would charge some not to teach any other doctrine, 1:3. As opposed to fables and endless genealogies which cause disputes, God's faith causes godly edification, 1:4. The purpose of Paul's commandment (to stop the erroneous doctrine and replace it with God's transforming Truth) is to produce in the Ephesians love that comes from a pure heart, good conscience, and sincere faith, 1:5. The erroneous teachers of the Law have strayed from God's transforming Truth and turned aside to idle talk, 1:5-7. God's Law is for fornicators, sodomites, kidnappers, liars, perjurers, and anything else contrary to error-free doctrine, 1:10. Paul urged Timothy to wage a good warfare against the doctrinal errors in Ephesus based on the prophecies God previously spoke about him, 1:18. Some have suffered shipwreck because they have rejected the faith and good conscience that comes from the faith, 1:19.