

Repeated Words, Themes, and Ideas

4. Mosaic Law, some in Ephesus are misusing the Law and it's causing disputes, 1:3-4. Some in Ephesus desire to be teachers of the Law but they don't understand what they're saying nor the things they assert with confidence, 1:7. Paul notes that the Law is good, if you use it lawfully, 1:8. The Law is not made for a righteous person but for lawless sinners, i.e., for various kinds of unrighteous sinners and for anything *or anyone* who is contrary to God's error-free doctrine, 1:9-10.
5. Seeing God's Word simply as Doctrine/Instruction vs. Personal Life-transforming Power, the erroneous Law teachers in Ephesus see God's Word as doctrinal instruction to be studied and followed like a rulebook but apart from any personal relationship with the actual Law-Giver: the Lord Jesus Christ, which is why it's causing disputes. Thus, Paul wants Timothy to put a stop to this erroneous doctrinal teaching and instead teach God's Word as the personal training program from the Law-Giver who doesn't want to produce rule-followers but individuals who possess love from a pure heart, good conscience, and sincerer faith, 1:3-7. The erroneous Law teachers think that God's Word is doctrinal instruction that will keep the unrighteous from every kind of sin. But Paul points out that the Law is not made for the righteous and he uses himself as an example: he used to be wickedly sinful, yet he was not rescued from these sins by doctrine. He was rescued from his sinfulness by a Person, by the Lord Jesus Christ who showed him incredible grace and mercy that empowered him and equipped him with faith and love, 1:8-16. Seeing God's Word simply as doctrinal information may lead you to reject the faith and good conscience present in the faith and thus, you'll suffer shipwreck like Alexander and Hymenaeus, whom Paul delivered to Satan so that they would repent. On the other hand, if you see God's Word as His personal instruction and conversation with you, then it will equip you with faith and a good conscience necessary to wage a good warfare against the sinfulness and challenges of this life, 1:18-20.
6. Doctrine/Instruction vs. God's Personal Transforming Truth (re. sinful/godly behavior), seeing God's Word simply as doctrinal information instead of a personal conversation with the Doctrine-Giver leads you to fall for fables and endless genealogies, causes disputes, makes you stray from the truth to idle talk, and leaves you a clueless teacher who doesn't understand what he says nor the things he asserts with confidence. But seeing God's Word as transforming, conversational truth from a personal Doctrine-Giver results in godly edification that produces in the participant love from a pure heart, good conscience, and sincere faith, 1:3-7. The Law may act as a deterrent against certain sins but it cannot produce nor equip a godly person, case in point: the apostle Paul was thoroughly wicked and persecuted Christ's church, but the Law didn't free him from his sins nor turn him into a godly person. Jesus' grace and mercy did, so much so that Jesus appointed him as a key pillar of His church, 1:8-16. God's personal, transforming truth will equip you with the faith and good conscience necessary to wage a good war against the challenges and sinfulness of this life. But mere doctrinal information will lead you to reject the faith and good conscience inherent in the faith and you'll suffer shipwreck just like Alexander and Hymenaeus, whom Paul had to deliver to Satan so that they would repent, 1:18-20.