

## The Goal of Our Instruction

1 Timothy 1:3-7

1. 

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Many years before writing to Timothy, Paul warned the Ephesian elders that false teachers would arise from within their own ranks (Acts 20:29-31). Paul now repeats his command for Timothy to continue in the work of the gospel in Ephesus (1 Tim. 1:3). Timothy was to devote himself to a biblical ministry (cf. 1 Tim. 4:13-15) in order to be fluent with the “sound words” (1 Tim. 6:3) so as to recognize any false teaching that would arise, resist the pressure to join in their wickedness (cf. 1 Cor. 1:12), and to strongly rebuke the men who were teaching falsehood (Tit. 1:10-11).
2. 

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False teaching precipitates the fracturing of the church. Unqualified, undisciplined, and unfaithful men (1 Tim. 3:1-7; cf. 2 Thes. 3:7; Tit. 2:7; 1 Pet. 5:1-3) often seek to be teachers in order to satisfy their own desires (2 Pet. 2:1-3, 10a, 13-15) and to gather people unto themselves (Acts 20:30; cf. Jas. 3:1). The false teaching which Paul has in view is not concerning issues about which believers may disagree (cf. Acts 15:36-39), but rather those which explicitly or implicitly contradict the gospel of Jesus Christ (cf. Gal. 1:6-10; 2:11-14; 2 Cor. 11:3-4). False teachers will be confident in their errors (cf. 2 Pet. 2:10b; Jude 8-10) not understanding their instruction to be inane and ineffectual (1 Tim. 1:6-7; cf. 2 Pet. 2:19; Jude 12b). The Lord said that we would know false teachers by their fruit (Matt. 7:15-23; 2 Pet. 2:17).
3. 

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The result of true biblical teaching when believed and obeyed is eternal salvation (Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 3:26; cf. John 3:36; 2 Thes. 1:8) as well as practical godliness (cf. John 14:15). Love is characteristic of any and all true spiritual religion (1 Cor. 15:1-3; cf. James 1:27; 1 John 2:29; 3:3). The love of a Christian towards others is rooted in his or her own experience of the cleansing love of Christ (John 13:34; 15:12; cf. Matt 5:44-45; 18:33). True biblical instruction will make the gospel message plain to the hearer and it will exhort the believer to recognize and respond to his or her own sin with humble repentance (cf. Rom. 12:2; Gal. 5:16-26; 2 Pet. 1:5-9) thereby manifesting the genuine faith of a forgiven sinner.