

God's

# Church Manual

A Verse By Verse Study of First & Second Timothy

## First Timothy Chapter One

**Verse 1** - “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope.”

When Paul was a little boy growing up in Tarsus, he never thought that he would be named in the Word of God in over 180 verses. What a frustration it must be for Satan to see Paul used to the glory of God in such a marvelous way, since it was Satan's goal to use Paul to destroy the cause of Christ.

Paul and Timothy were very good friends. It was very official for Paul to begin his letter to his friend Timothy with “Paul an apostle,” however, Paul was speaking for God about a very serious matter. This was not just a letter from an “old buddy.” Paul writes to this young pastor, “...by commandment of God.” It is not a light thing with God when a church gets sick unto death, and it is not a light thing when a young pastor is given the responsibility to deal with the mess someone else made.

### “CLEANING UP THE MESS”

At the very beginning, when Paul challenges Timothy about the mess he must deal with, Paul reminds the pastor that his “hope” is in Christ. When a pastor has church problems to deal with, he needs to keep his focus on the Lord. In every detail of leadership in the local church, the pastor needs to know what Christ would do in the situation **and do it!**

### CHRIST DIDN'T PREACH A SERMON, HE MADE A WHIP

It is interesting that the first time we find Christ upset about sin, it had to do with sin in His “Father's house.” John 2:15-17 tells us, Jesus “...made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple.” They had made His “... Father's house an house of merchandise.”

### DECREASING THE ATTENDANCE

This was not a time to start a campaign to increase the attendance. It was His goal to decrease the attendance. We read, “...he drove them all out of the temple.” He was not concerned about what this might do concerning the offerings. We read in John 2:15, He “...poured out the changers' money.” He was not concerned about the building looking good for the visitors; He “...overthrew the tables.”

### CLEAN UP THE MESS BEFORE ORGANIZING

There are many Church Manuals on the market these days, focusing on the organizational aspect of a local church. It is important that our churches be organized and “...all things be done decently and in order.” (First Corinthians 14:40); however, Jesus did not focus on organizing the mess in His “Father's house.” He dealt with the problem.



### WHEN TO WHIP AND WHEN TO WEEP

When they beat Christ unmercifully and even crucified Him, He said, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34) He responded differently when they were abusing His “Father's house.” He made a whip and took care of the problem.

He didn't preach a little sermon and throw in a few sentences about the problem, hoping they would get

the message. He attacked the problem head on! This is the same principle every pastor should take. When someone is beating on the pastor personally, to be like Christ is to say, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” When they cause problems in the local church, it is time to take some serious action to correct the problem. (*We are not suggesting you use a whip*).

The local church belongs to Christ. He said it was His church. In Matthew 16:18, He said, “...I will build my church.” He did not say the pastor would build the pastor’s church; and neither did He say pastors will build Christ’s church. He said He would do the building. He did, however, leave pastors with the responsibility of doing things in the church the way He wants them done.

### WHAT DID CHRIST MEAN WHEN HE SAID HE WOULD BUILD HIS CHURCH?

It is important to understand that the word “build” used here, refers to building something that is physical rather than spiritual. The same word is used when referring to the following structures:

- **Matthew 23:29** - “...ye build the tombs.”
- **Luke 11:47** - “...ye build the sepulchres.”
- **Luke 12:18** - “...I will pull down my barns, and build greater.”
- **Luke 14:28** - “...build a tower.”
- **Acts 15:16** - “...build again the tabernacle.”

A different word is used when referring to a person being built spiritually. The Bible says in Acts 20:32, “And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up.” The pastor will certainly have some responsibilities concerning the physical aspects in the local church; however, the pastors’ first responsibility is not to increase in numbers but rather clean up the mess and bring the people to a spiritual maturity.

### TWO RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PASTOR

We will see in First and Second Timothy that the pastors’ responsibility is not to keep the church full but to keep the church pure. It is more important to have purity in the pews than a large number of people in the pews who have no intention of doing anything for God.

“The pastors’ responsibility is not to keep the church full but to keep the church pure.”

Timothys’ responsibility as a pastor, however, did not negate his responsibility as an individual Christian to be actively witnessing to the lost. Pastors need to be very careful to separate these two responsibilities as God does.

**Verse 2** - “Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.”

### THREE THINGS THE PASTOR NEEDS

Paul focused on three things that Timothy needed to be sure were a part of his life as he battled the problems in his local church. They are “grace,” “mercy” and “peace.”



### GRACE

Years ago, I heard someone say that the word “grace,” when dealing with Christians means, the desire and the ability to do Gods’ will. In recent years, I have done much personal study concerning the word “grace” and have come to the conclusion that this is an excellent definition of the word.

The first time the word *desires* is found in Scripture is in Psalm 37:4 where we read, “Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.” This does not mean if we desire a new car He will give it to us. It means He will put His desires in our heart.

- **Psalm 37:4** says, “...he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”
- **Proverbs 3:34** says, “...he giveth grace unto the lowly.”
- **James 4:6** says, “But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”
- **First Peter 5:5** says, “...God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”

### PAULS’ DESIRES CAME FROM GOD

In spite of the major hardships, Paul was facing in a dungeon, his focus was always on helping others. In Romans 10:1 he said, “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.” In Philippians 4:17 he said, “I desire fruit that may abound to your account.” In Colossians 1:9 Paul said his, “desire” was that they, “...might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” God had put some very special desires in the heart of Paul that led him to live a life in constant concern for others.

Timothy would also need to have God's desires foremost in his heart if he was going to handle the problems he faced in the local church. He would need the desire and the ability to do God's work, God's way.

### MERCY

A mother once approached Napoleon seeking a pardon for her son. The emperor replied that the young man had committed a certain offense twice and justice demanded death. “*But I don't ask for justice,*” the mother explained. “*I plead for mercy.*” Napoleon replied, “*But your son does not deserve mercy.*” The woman sobbed, “*Sir, it would not be mercy if he deserved it.*” He spared the woman's son.

### PEACE

Peace consists not in the absence of trials, but in the presence of God. Colossians 3:15 says, “*And let the peace of God rule (referee) in your hearts.*” Studies have found peace of mind can be lost by nursing a grudge, self-pity, and not cultivating love and compassion. Timothy would need to be careful to keep a Christ-like attitude concerning those in the local church who opposed him.

**Verse 3** - “*As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,*”

### STAY AND STAND

The pastor at Ephesus had some serious problems to take care of. Maybe leaving seemed like a good idea; however, it is always better to be in the storm in the will of God than in the sunshine without Him.

### DEAL WITH THE TROUBLEMAKERS QUICKLY

Paul commanded Timothy to, “*Charge some that they teach no other doctrine.*” It is very significant that even before the pastor was to preach sound doctrine, the first thing he was to do was to put a stop to those who were teaching false doctrine. Paul had warned this church in Acts 20:29-30 saying, “*I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.*”

Ecclesiastes 8:11 says, “*Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.*”



### PUT A STOP TO THE TROUBLEMAKERS

The first thing Timothy was charged with was to stop those who were teaching false doctrine. We will see later in both First and Second Timothy that the pastor in Ephesus took that responsibility very seriously. Timothy had the very difficult and unpopular responsibility of publicly exposing those who were guilty of spreading false teachings in the local church.

### DON'T LEAVE THE TAP RUNNING

I recently heard about a test that is given to mentally handicapped people to check on their learning process. They have a tap running water onto the floor. They give the slow learner a mop and ask him to mop up the water. If he shuts off the tap before he begins mopping, they know they have made progress. If he just begins mopping the floor while leaving the tap running, they know he still has much to learn.



One of the main reasons apostasy has flooded our churches is many pastors have left the tap of apostasy running while trying to build numerically.

### HOW IS A PASTOR TO DO THE CHARGING?

Verse three says the pastor is commanded to “*...charge some that they teach no other doctrine.*” Paul repeats the command in verse eighteen where we read, “*This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy.*” Concerning this charge Paul said, “*...that thou by them mightest war a good warfare.*”

### A GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW TO CHARGE

Pastors have an example of how to do the charging by looking at Paul's charge to Timothy. We read in First Timothy 5:21 Paul said, “*I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.*” It matters not if the person who is speaking perverse things is a large financial contributor or if he contributes little. The pastor is to deal with the troublemakers, “*...without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.*”

In First Timothy 6:13 Paul said, “*I give thee charge in the sight of God...*” That particular charge had to do with the previous verse that reads, “*Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*”

Paul did not skirt around the issue. Before the pastor was to organize an attendance drive, he was to “...charge some that they teach no other doctrine,”

### DEALING WITH THOSE WHO LISTEN TO THE TROUBLEMAKERS

**Verse 4** says, “Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.”

As well as charging those who sowed discord to quit their wickedness, the pastor was also given the responsibility to charge some church members that they do not listen, (“give heed”) to those that, “...minister questions, rather than godly edifying.”

### THE LISTENER IS A WICKED DOER AND A LIAR

It is not only the one who sows discord that needs to be dealt with. God considers those who listen to him are “wicked.”

**Proverbs 17:4** says, “A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue.” Wicked people choose wicked people for their companions.

**Amos 3:3** says, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” To listen to a troublemaker is to give consent to his wickedness.

**Proverbs 4:14** says, “Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.”

**Proverbs 13:20** says, “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.”

**Psalms 119:63** “I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.”

The person who is sowing discord in the local church does not fear God nor does he keep His precepts. A liar is one who creates a false or misleading impression. A person who listens to the one who sows discord may justify himself as being too kind to rebuke the talebearer; however, he is creating a false or misleading impression to the one he is listening to. Anyone who purposely creates a false or misleading impression is a liar, and God says he or she is wicked.



People who do a lot of “vain jangling” will soon stop, if they have no one who will listen to them. We will see that Timothy, like Paul and like Jesus, did not

hint at the issue in a sermon, hoping the troublemakers might get the message. They dealt with it head on!

### THE HARM THEY CAN CAUSE

- **Proverbs 6:12-14** - “A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth. Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord.”
- **Proverbs 28:25** - “He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife.”
- **Proverbs 16:28** - “A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.”
- **Hebrews - 12:15** - “Looking diligently...lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;”

### VERSES GIVEN TO THE LOCAL CHURCH

**Second Thessalonians 3:6** - “Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.”

The command is to “withdraw yourselves,” which makes it impossible to listen to anyone spewing discord. The Bible goes on to say in verse fourteen, “And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, (if he refuses to withdraw from the disorderly) note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.”

The word “note” means, “...to make special mention of something and to make a note means to record something in writing” The pastor’s responsibility includes stopping those, “...whose mouths must be stopped.” (Titus 1:11) and charging others that they do not “give heed” (listen) to the one who sows discord.

Hymenaeus  
and  
Alexander

### MANY DIFFERENT PROJECTS

Pastors should not look at the trying situations that come along in the local church as problems but rather projects that God has entrusted to the pastor to take care of. As a pastor, I have had to deal with people who were upset because we had puppets teaching the children in junior church. Others have said we should not have a program for children or youth meetings. One man felt we should be keeping the seven feasts of the Old Testament. One woman got upset because I loosened my tie while preaching.

Another woman challenged me saying there is not a verse in the entire Bible that suggests a church should have a nursery. I said there is no verse suggesting we

should have a washroom either. However, the Bible does say church members are to “submit” to the leadership in the local church, and the God-given leadership in this church has decided we will have both a nursery and a washroom. (I also told her it is impossible to “submit” unless she disagreed. When one agrees, there is no submission.) She decided to leave the church, and her husband followed his wife to yet another church.



### SELF-APPOINTED MISSIONARIES

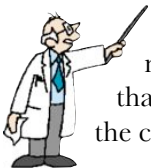
Some people in the local church at Ephesus felt it was their God-given responsibility to be missionaries to the people in the church, to teach them about their pet doctrine. Pastors face the same situation today. One man told me he did not really want to come to our church; however, he was there because God sent him to keep me straight. (I haven't been able to find that local church office in my Bible.)

### SOME BETTER THINGS TO TALK ABOUT

In verse five Paul said, “Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.” Love, a pure heart, a good conscience, and faith are better things to talk about than subjects like church nurseries not being Scriptural. Paul called it “vain jangling” in verse six and said, “vain jangling” was responsible for turning some aside.

### DESIRING TO BE TEACHERS

The root problem was, and is, pride. Verse seven says that they were “Desiring to be teachers.” They feel they are smarter than the average person in the church, including the pastor, and desired to teach them. It would be great, if these people who desire to be teachers would go out and teach the “...lawless and disobedient, the ungodly sinners, unholy profane, murderers, whoremongers, them that defile themselves with mankind, menstealers, liars,” and all the rest mentioned in the next few verses rather than messing up the minds of Christians in the church.



Verse seven goes on to say they don't understand what they are talking about. Verse eight tells us in Ephesus, they were teaching that they needed go back under the “law” rather than the “glorious gospel” that was committed to Paul.

### WAR A GOOD WARFARE NO PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

Like Timothy, pastors have the tremendous responsibility to heed the charge given in verse eighteen where Paul said, “...war a good warfare.” One of the reasons many local churches are in the mess they are in is because pastors want to live in peaceful coexistence with people who are causing division in the church.

In the next verse, Paul exposes two troublemakers by name. He speaks of “...Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.” There was no peaceful coexistence with those who sought to cause division in the local church!

### TIMOTHY'S PROBLEM WITH JUDAISM

**Verses 8-11** - “But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 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; According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.”

### OUR PROBLEM TODAY WITH DAMNABLE HERESIES

Today we face different forms of false doctrine. One of the most wicked heresies infecting our churches today is Calvinism. One thing pastors better get straight is that those who hold to false doctrine need to be handled like Paul commanded it must be handled. In recent years those who promote Calvin's heresy have infiltrated fundamental Baptist Bible colleges, and therein lies the problem. They never should have been allowed to infiltrate. The problem is fundamental leaders want to live in peaceful coexistence with their friends even if they are promoting heresy.



### “IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS”

**Verse 12** - “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.”

In the middle of Paul's instructions to Timothy about the serious problems, he expresses his thanks to the Lord for enabling him to do what God wanted him to do. On the day Paul was saved we read, “And he trembling

and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.” (Acts 9:6)

Every pastor has something God wants him to do and God has enabled him to do it. God does not want every pastor to imitate other pastors.

### TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN RESPONSIBILITIES

In Acts 20:24 we read Paul was concerned about his God-given responsibilities. He said, “...neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus.” Paul kept his focus on his responsibilities and at the end of his life he wrote in Second Timothy 4:7, “...I have finished my course,” Paul finished his course, “...with joy.”

#### “IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS”



In First Thessalonians 5:18 Paul wrote, “*In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*” He did not say give thanks for every thing, he said, “...in every thing.” In Paul’s report in Second Corinthians 11:24-28, we read that in “every thing” Paul gave thanks in...

**Verse 23** - “...in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.”

**Verse 24** - “Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.”

**Verse 25** - “Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep.”

**Verse 26** - “In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren.”

**Verse 27** - “In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.”

**Verse 28** - “Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.”

Even as Paul writes to Timothy about being thankful, he is sitting in a dungeon waiting his execution.

#### TRIALS AHEAD FOR THE PASTOR

Paul was saying Timothy, “...I have finished my course,” now you finish yours. Timothy was facing some very trying times in his local church. Paul wanted him to

understand that he needed to be thankful that God trusted him with such a tremendous responsibility. Paul wanted Timothy’s testimony also to be “*And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.*”

Paul said he “...was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.” (Verse 13)

- As a “blasphemer,” he had attacked the Person of Christ.
- As a “persecutor,” he had persecuted the people of Christ.
- As “injurious,” he had hindered the program of Christ.

Paul said, “*I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.*” When he was persecuting Christians, he thought he was doing the will of God. He was ignorant of the fact that the local church age was getting underway. He simply did not understand that he was fighting against God.

**Verse 14** - “*And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.*” Considering Paul’s hatred of Christians and his hatred of Christ, his conversion was a great example of the grace and the love of Christ. Also the grace and love of Christ is seen in the faith it produced in Paul.

**Verse 15** - “*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*” The closer Paul got to the Lord, the more he saw himself as he really was. He ended his life considering himself to be “*the chief of sinners.*” Like Job of old, we read when Job got close to the Lord through the circumstances God allowed the Devil to put him through, Job said, “*I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*” (Job 42:5-6).

The circumstances the pastor must go through will either make him bitter or better. The only difference in the two words is the letter “I.”

#### PAUL WAS A PATTERN

“*Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.*” There is far more to being a pastor than looking good in the eyes of those who have their shallow expectations of what a pastor is supposed to accomplish.

Pastors are called upon by God to be a pattern of, “...all longsuffering.” God’s church manual for the pastor speaks of keeping the church pure, stopping the wolves at the door, and being a pattern to, “...shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.”

### “ME FIRST”

When Jesus was seeking disciples, many had a “me first” problem. In Luke 9:59 we read, “And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.” In Luke 9:61 it says, “And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.” There are few who would take the position of Paul who said, “...that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.” (Verse 16)

**Verse 17** - “Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

Paul sits in the dampness of the dungeon, having been put there by Caesar. Caesar felt very important as he ruled and passed his decrees; however, his kingdom came to an end, and his body has laid in a grave now for about 2,000 years. Paul rejoices in the fact that his faith rests in “...the King eternal.” The King who has “...honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

### BACK TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND

**Verse 18** - “This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare.”

In Paul’s letter to this church, we read in Ephesians 6:10-17, Paul talks to the pastors in the local church, about the warfare they are involved in.

- Paul talked about “*armour.*”
- Paul talked about “*the shield.*”
- Paul talked about “*fiery darts.*”
- Paul talked about a “*helmet.*”
- Paul talked about a “*sword.*”
- Paul talked about the “*warfare.*” (First Corinthians 9:7)
- Paul talked about “*...the weapons of our warfare.*” (Second Corinthians 10:4)
- Paul talked about enduring “*...hardness, as a good soldier.*” (Second Timothy 2:3).



Paul commanded Timothy to “...war a good warfare.” At the end of his life Paul said, “I have fought a good fight.” (Second Timothy 4:7)

Our modern-day church manuals are helpful concerning the organization of the mechanical things in a church; however, God’s church manual deals with the more important issues. In verse eighteen Paul said, “This charge I commit unto thee...that thou by them mightest war a good warfare.” One can be sure that when a pastor faithfully follows God’s directions as Paul did in the next verse, that a warfare will be underway.

**Verses 19-20** - “Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.”

### “FAITH AND A GOOD CONSCIENCE”

The words “*faith*” and “*conscience*” are found together in three verses in First Timothy. Paul mentions, “...a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned. From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling.” (First Timothy 1:5,6) In verse nineteen he talks of “Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck.” In chapter three Paul talks about, “Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.”

### THE SELF-APPOINTED TEACHERS AND THE HARM THEY CAUSED

Hymenaeus, a self-appointed teacher, is seen promoting disunity in the church. One of his converts was Alexander. By the time we get to Second Timothy 2:17 we find Hymenaeus is doing much harm in the local church at Ephesus. He has picked up another assistant in his work for the Devil by the name of Philetus. In Second Timothy 4:14 we read that Alexander the coppersmith had joined the team of infiltrators in the church. Paul said, “Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works.”



The Bible says in First Corinthians 15:33 “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.” We read in Acts 19:33 that Alexander had stood firm during the riot in this local church. He changed his position under the influence of Hymenaeus and his followers. Spiritual shipwrecks do not just happen. There are always reasons when people make shipwreck of their lives.

### THE RESULT OF A WRONG DECISION

**Verse 19** - “Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck.”

The phrase “put away” literally means “to thrust or push away.” It refers to “an intentional turning from truth to error.” Somewhere along the way Hymenaeus, Alexander, Philetus, and all those who listened to them rejected the sound doctrine that had been preached. They all ended up in the sad state they were in because they intentionally turned from the truth and embraced error.

### NO CHOICE BUT TO CHOOSE

Every day when we wake up, we immediately begin making choices. Each day when trying circumstances come along, we have no choice but to choose. Hymenaeus, Alexander, and Philetus all made choices. In Deuteronomy 30:15 God said, “I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil.” He continued in verse nineteen saying, “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”

### THE BACKSLIDDEN HEIFER

The move from truth to error is never made in an instant! The Bible gives an example of being backslidden in Hosea 4:16 where we read, “For Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer.” The backslider is like a heifer or an ox that is in a double yoke. Both of the oxen are supposed to pull together to drag the cart or plow forward. The backsliding heifer decides to turn to the side or to stop in its tracks. To be backslidden is to refuse to go forward or to turn from God’s prescribed course.

### SHIPWRECKS HAPPEN FOR A REASON

Shipwrecks take place when ships are allowed to drift with no set course. Sometimes they have set an incorrect course that causes them to be smashed upon the rocks. Ships can also be wrecked when they are overloaded. Hebrews 12:1 says, “...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us.” Paul’s responsibility of dealing with two men in the local church is seen in the next verse.



**Verse 20** - “Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.”

“To be backslidden is to refuse to go forward or to turn from God’s prescribed course.”

### LOCAL CHURCH DISCIPLINE IN THE CHURCH AT CORINTH

When dealing with a discipline problem (project) in the Corinthian church, Paul commanded them, “To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump.” (First Corinthians 5:5-7)

### THE FOUNDATION FOR BIBLE DISCIPLINE IS LOVE

Paul begins in chapter one in verse fourteen with a focus on “love.” He ends his letter to the pastor in chapter six with a focus on “love.” When he wrote Timothy, his second letter in chapter one in verse seven and thirteen his focus was still on “love.”

He ends his second letter to the pastor in chapter four with a focus on “love.” Our first concern must be our love for Christ and His people. He said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” (John 14:15) **There is more to real love than emotional sweet words.**

The apostle who was noted for his love said, “...let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.” (First John 3:18)

### NO LITTLE SERMON HOPING TO FIX THINGS

As previously mentioned, the first time we find Christ upset about sin was when He took a whip into the Temple to straighten things out that needed straightening out. The foundation for it all was love. Jesus loved His Father; He loved His Father’s house, and He loved every sinner that was in the Temple that day. **Discipline is not something you do to someone, it is something you do for them.** He did not love them any less with a whip in His hand than He did when He was hanging on the cross for the same people.

### “THAT THEY MAY LEARN”

Paul said they were “...delivered unto Satan, that they may learn...” Discipline in the local church is not done to get rid of someone. It is done to help them. In the Old Testament we read God commanded Moses in Deuteronomy 4:10 to, “Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may



teach their children.” In Deuteronomy 31:12 God said, “Gather the people together...that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law.”

When God’s people refused to listen to the God-given leadership during the Old Testament, God turned them over to their enemies. Psalms 106:42 says, “Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their hand.”

In the New Testament age Jesus said, “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.” (John 16:13) When Christians like Hymenaeus and Alexander, refuse to listen to the Holy Spirit as He speaks through the God-given leadership in the local church, they are to be disciplined out of the local church. In First Timothy 1:20 Paul said they are to be “...delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.”

### LEARNING NOT TO BLASPHEME

We read in verse thirteen Paul referred to himself as “...a blasphemer,” however, he said he “...obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.”

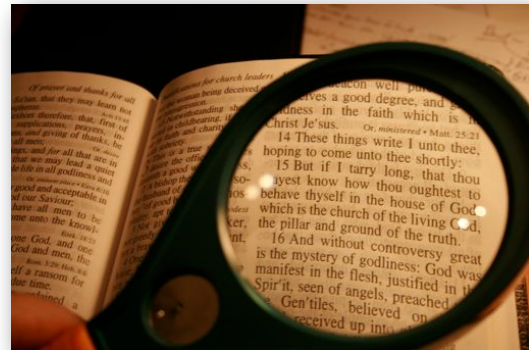
When Paul met Christ on the road to Damascus, two things happened. First, he responded immediately concerning his need to trust Christ as his Saviour.

Second, he responded immediately about what God would have him do as a Christian. When God spoke to Paul we read, “And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” (Acts 9:6)

### HYMENAEUS AND ALEXANDER WERE WITHOUT EXCUSE

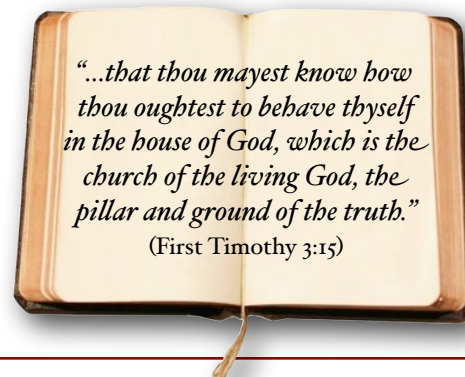
Hymenaeus and Alexander had been members of the local church in Ephesus when God was blessing it in a marvelous way. **They were not doing what they did in ignorance.** They made a conscious decision to fight against the leadership God had sent, and God never takes that wicked sin lightly. Therefore, concerning Hymenaeus and Alexander, Paul said, “...I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.”

# Specific Instructions



**We have not been left in the dark concerning how God wants things done.**

It has only been in recent years that we have decided to bypass the local church and “do that which is right in our own eyes.”



“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”

(Luke 6:46)