



# First Timothy

## The Law Is Good

**It Shines the Light on Sin**

**I Timothy 1:8-11**

**Lesson Three**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*



# First Timothy

## A Study of the First Letter of the Apostle Paul to His Son in the Faith

### **The Law is Good**

Paul clarified his statement, in verse seven, about teachers teaching the Law which they did not understand. (Read I Timothy 1:7) He didn't want Timothy making the same mistake. So, he got very specific. (Read I Timothy 1:8-11)

First, he said that the Law is good. God gave the law, stated in brief in Exodus 20:1-17. If God gave it, why would it not be good? Well, some Christians thought that the Law was no longer needed. The Law was the guide and the goal of every good Jew. It was the understanding of the Jews that to please God, one must keep the law perfectly.

We know that wouldn't happen...no one can keep the law perfectly. So, since God loved us so much, He sent Jesus to the world to live perfectly, according to the Law, then die for all our sins. Now, by faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are considered by God to be righteous...that is, when God looks at a Christian, He sees the perfection of Jesus.

Some were claiming that the Law was not in effect any longer. It was no longer necessary, since Jesus had fulfilled the law perfectly. But, Paul says here that the law is necessary and good. He says it continues to serve a purpose.

The purpose, he says, doesn't involve the Christian. William Barclay, in discussing this verse points out, "The Christian faith...looks forward to the day when the only law will be the love of Christ within a man's heart, for Christianity is certain that the day of law cannot end till the day of love dawns." Paul said that day had not come, and it has not come to this day in 2012.

The Law continued to be necessary. It was necessary to control sin and sinners. It made plain the sinfulness of the sinner. Paul lists several kinds of sinful humans spoken to by the Law.

First Paul says that there are lawbreakers (lawless) people. This refers to a person who knows about right and wrong, but goes on doing the wrong thing in spite of what the Law says.

Second, Paul lists rebels (undisciplined people). These are people who refuse to obey any authority. They are arrogant and want no controls in their life, definitely not the Law.

Third, Paul lists ungodly (irreverent) people. This describes a person who defies God. It is sort of a thumbing one's nose at what God said in the Law.

Fourth, Paul speaks of the sinful (sinners). This describes the person who has no morals left. This is someone who really doesn't care how they behave or how that affects other people.

Fifth, Paul says the Law condemns the unholy. This is a person who has nothing holy about him or her. They have violated creation itself. There is no decency in this person.

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Sixth, Paul lists irreligious (profane). These are folks who are worse than those who break the law intentionally, they care nothing for God and hate Godly things.

These six kinds of sinners roughly fit into the first four of the Ten Commandments...dealing with respect for God. The next sins in the list can fit into the final Ten Commandments.

Seventh, Paul tells us that the law condemns “those who kill their fathers or mothers.” These are heartless people who murder their own parents. What an awful picture!

Eighth, Paul enlarges the sin to murder in general. Taking someone’s life is terrible sin. And, we must remember that in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that if you are angry with someone, you have committed murder...we take that to mean hatred or violent anger.

Ninth, adulterers and perverts (homosexuals) are sinners against God’s ideal of one man and one woman married for life. This is sexual immorality.

Tenth, Paul lists slave-traders (kidnappers). This was a prevalent sin in Paul’s day. Slaves were very valuable, and they were stolen by persons who needed slaves, and also by those who would kidnap them and sell them for profit.

Eleventh, liars and perjurers are listed in this terrible list of sins and sinners. Whether one tells a lie, or takes an oath and then breaks it, that person is condemned by the Law.

Finally, Paul says that any disobedience of “sound doctrine” (sound teaching), or “the truth,” is condemned. Christian teaching demands honesty, love, compassion and a whole list of other ways of healthy living. In referring to sound teaching, Paul is covering all the bases just in case he has left out something.

Read I Timothy 1:11 again. We are reminded that the basis of Godly living is the “glorious gospel.” The Gospel, the Good News, is our guide for living...this comes from God. The Good News is all about Jesus. Living like Jesus is living according to the true teaching of the Gospel. This is the Gospel God had “entrusted” to Paul. The Gospel comes through humans.

\*Underlined words and phrases answer questions on the *Student Worksheet*.

**Lesson Goal:** To show Paul’s frustration and disrespect for false teachers.

**Scripture Memory:** “**The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.**” I Timothy 1:5

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## Student Worksheet—Following Through

### The Law Is Good

1. What was the Law to every good Jew?
2. What makes us righteous in God's eyes?
3. Paul says here that the law is necessary and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Why did the Law continue to be necessary?
5. What are the kinds of people Paul listed as sinful humans spoken to by the Law?
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.
  - 7.
  - 8.
  - 9.
  - 10.
  - 11.
6. Christian teaching demands \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and a whole list of other ways of \_\_\_\_\_ living.
7. What is the basis for Christian living?
8. What is the Good News all about?

#### **How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:**

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.