



First Timothy

Shipwrecked

Faith

Rejecting God's Plan

I Timothy 1:19b, 20

Lesson Six

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum



First Timothy

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

Shipwrecked Faith

In the last part of I Timothy 1:19 and verse 20, Paul told Timothy that even though Paul had lived according to God's plan when he was in Ephesus, and had taught the people there the way of God, there were those whose faith was not what it should be. Read I Timothy 19b, 20.

He said that two men had rejected the right way to live. He is not specific about exactly what their sin was. Most assume that he is saying that they have not lived according to a good conscience. He had just told Timothy that he should hold on to faith and a good conscience. When someone refuses guidance of the voice within us, our conscience, that means that we will not give God a chance to speak to us through His Holy Spirit.*

So these men, Alexander and Hymenaeus, had ignored God's leadership in their lives. Now when that happens, people who are involved in the church often turn to doing and saying the wrong things in the church, blasphemy. Paul called himself a blasphemer in the thirteenth verse of this chapter. His sin was against the church, and against Jesus who is the head of the church. These men were causing trouble in the church by teaching wrong things. Blasphemy, of this kind, is mentioned in I Timothy 1:3, 4 and II Tim. 2:17, 18.

If this is the same Hymenaeus mentioned in II Timothy 2:17, 18, he was among those who were saying that the resurrection of the dead had already taken place. As we know from the rest of Scripture, the resurrection of the dead will happen when Jesus returns to earth at the end of time. These teachers, Hymenaeus among them, were confusing the people and destroying their faith...faith they had received when told the truth about Jesus Christ. If this is the same Alexander who was pushed forward to speak for the people of Ephesus when they were trying to bring charges against Paul (Acts 19:32ff), he may have become a Christian convert and then, joined Hymenaeus and others who were teaching wrong things. This is **probably not** the same Alexander mentioned in II Timothy 2:14, 15.

Paul does say that they should be taught not to blaspheme. There is a sin of blasphemy that God does not forgive. This is mentioned in Matthew 12:32, Mark 3:29, and Luke 12:10 which says, "Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man (Jesus) will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven." Bible scholars have said that this sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is committed by someone who says no to the Holy Spirit when He offers salvation in Jesus. Rejecting Jesus guarantees that when you die, you cannot be in the presence of God, in Heaven.

Then Paul says that he has "handed them over to Satan." Does this mean that Paul literally gave someone to Satan. No, Paul did not have that power. Only God has that power. Of course, people who reject Jesus as Savior, are really turning themselves over to Satan. What it means here is that Paul, as leader of the church, encouraged the church to refuse to have a relationship with that person.



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This is based on the idea that God’s Spirit dwells in the church. Outside the church is where Satan has his most effective power. So, removing a person from the fellowship of the church is placing them where Satan is. Paul speaks of the church doing this in I Corinthians 5:5. In that situation, a man was a bad sinner and his sin was obvious to the church. Paul said that the church should meet together and “hand this man over to Satan.” There is no doubt that the church would accomplish that by refusing to allow that man to continue in the fellowship of the church. By some churches, this is called “excommunication.”

Please note that in both cases, the man at Corinth, and the men at Ephesus, Paul said that his hope was that these people will repent. It could be called shock treatment. When these people found themselves outside the church, not allowed to be part of the companionship of friends and other Christians, they would see how wrong they were and be sorry.

The withdrawal of church fellowship from a person is changeable. When a person shows that they know they were wrong and apologize, they can be welcomed back into the church fellowship. The key is repentance, asking for forgiveness. That is what Paul hoped would be the case with these men.

Paul spoke of “shipwrecked faith.” This is a vivid picture. It was especially real to the people in Ephesus. It was a seaport city. They knew a lot about shipwrecks. Paul’s goal was to let the people see that if your ship is not guided by a rudder of good conscience, the wind and the waves will ultimately push the ship on the rocks and destroy it. Without the guidance of God’s Holy Spirit, we are a ship with no defense against wind of temptation, the waves of bad teaching and will crash on the rocks of sin. The wreckage will be useless to God and we will be poor, misguided Christians who are only making matters worse for God’s Kingdom. We will be destructive to the church and a bad influence for those who need a Christian example.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the *Student Worksheet*.

Lesson Goal: To encourage students to be an example of true faith.

Scripture Memory: “Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” I Timothy 1:15

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Student Worksheet—Following Through

Shipwrecked Faith

- >When someone refuses _____ of the voice within us, our conscience, that means that we will not give _____ a chance to speak to us through His _____.
- >Who were the two men who refused to follow the Guidance of God’s Holy Spirit?
- 1.
 - 2.
- >What was Hymenaeus saying about the resurrection of the dead?
- >What is the sin of blasphemy that cannot be forgiven?
- >What was Paul’s hope for the man at Corinth and the men at Ephesus?
- >Without the _____ of God’s Holy Spirit, we are a ship with no _____ against wind of _____, the waves of bad _____ and will crash on the rocks of _____.

For Memory: “Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” I Timothy 1:15

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.