



# Why the Bible is so important

1 Timothy 1:3-11

## Introduction

The Apostle Paul was the ultimate Kingdom Adventurer and fearlessly preached the good news about Jesus wherever He went. People were saved and lives transformed by the power of God. But along with the successes came the opposition; along with the genuine came the counterfeit.

In Acts 20 (vs 13-38) Paul was heading towards Jerusalem in obedience to God's leading. He knew that danger, imprisonment or even death awaited him there. So on his way to Jerusalem, he stopped in Miletus – just down the coast from Ephesus – and called to him the elders of the Ephesian church. He knew it was to be his last meeting with them (v38) so he wanted to encourage them and also warn them about the dangers that lay ahead. He felt certain that false teachers – ‘savage wolves’ – would come in amongst the flock and lead people away from the truth and into danger (vs 28-31). So he warned them to ‘be on guard’.

In 1 Timothy we see that Paul's prediction came true and that the Ephesian church had indeed been infiltrated by false teachers (1 Tim 1:3,4). Paul, having recently been

## Bible facts...

**66 books** – 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.

**Written over 1,500 years** (40 generations)

**Over 40 authors** – kings, peasants, philosophers, doctors, fishermen & scholars

**3 languages** – Hebrew, Aramaic & Greek

released from his imprisonment, wrote from Macedonia to Timothy (in Ephesus) to deal with the problem.

## The problem

It appears from this letter that there were a number of Judaisers in the church – i.e. those Christians with a Jewish heritage who wanted to move away from the Gospel of Grace and back to Old Testament legalism. They thought that by sticking rigidly to the Old Testament Law and by endlessly arguing about myths and ‘spiritual pedigrees’ (v4. NLT), that this somehow made them more righteous in God's eyes. This was a false gospel and undermined the

message of the cross – i.e. being saved because of God’s grace and receiving it by faith. Forgiveness of sins and new life is based not on what we have done, but on

what Christ did for us in dying for our sins and being raised back to life.

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## Life Group questions...

- 1. Read vs3-4. What role has Paul given to Timothy in the Ephesian church?**
  - What kinds of false teaching have you come across?
  - Look at Galatians 1:6-9 and 1 Timothy 4:1-2. Why do you think Paul was so passionate about protecting the church from false teachers?
  
- 2. Read v4. Paul says that ‘God’s work is by faith’. What do you think this means?**
  - Read Hebrews 11:6. What do you think faith is?
  - Where does faith come from (see Romans 10:16-17)?
  - Do you agree that ‘sin keeps us from the Bible, and the Bible keeps us from sin’?
  
- 3. Read vs5-7. What are the four qualities mentioned here? Why do you think these are important in the Christian life?**
  - 1 Timothy 1:6 & 2:19 say that ‘some have wandered away from these’ and ‘shipwrecked their faith’. What are the warning signs that this might be happening in our lives? How can we help each other stay on track?
  
- 4. In 2 Timothy 3:16 Paul describes the Scriptures as ‘God-breathed’. What do you think that means? What other reasons does Paul give in this passage for us making the Bible an important part of our lives?**
  - Why do you think Christians struggle to read the Bible? Discuss problems you have found with regularly reading the Bible...be as honest as possible.
  - Share ways you have found to incorporate the Bible into everyday life.