



Because Jesus is preeminent over all, we need to take the gospel to all.

I. Pray (2-4)

- A. The work of prayer
- B. Stay alert in it! Stay awake!
- C. With thanksgiving
 - 1. God opens doors.
 - 2. The message is Jesus.
 - 3. He needs to speak it clearly.

II. Walk (5)

- A. In wisdom
 - It is about living righteously in practical, everyday life.
- B. Using every moment well

III. Talk (6)

- A. Gracious speech
- B. Tasteful words – be pleasant!
- C. But be ready to speak.

PRAY, WALK, TALK

How does this apply to me?

INTRO FOR NEXT WEEK

THE PASTOR'S CHARGE: LEAD TRUE

HISTORICAL TIMELINE:

Paul's first letter to Timothy was probably written in the mid 60's AD. The book of Acts concludes with Paul's first imprisonment. If, as is probable, Paul was released after his first imprisonment (evidenced by writings of some of the early church fathers), he was likely released around 62AD. For a period of 1-3 years he may have served the Lord freely (possibly traveling to Spain) before being rearrested. He was executed by Nero around 68AD.

PASSAGE OVERVIEW:

Paul had left Timothy in Ephesus to pastor the growing and thriving church there. Ephesus was a metropolis built around a harbor that served as the gateway to Asia. So many people had come to Christ during Paul's ministry there that it caused significant economic turbulence in a city that prided itself on the worship of Artemis. Christians no longer participated in the lucrative businesses that profited from the worship of this goddess. The city erupted into riots which were ultimately calmed by town clerk.

Exponential church growth is often accompanied by significant turbulence. This was the case in Ephesus. Certain persons, eager to make a name for themselves, began to teach doctrines based on myths, speculations, and lots of talk. Their vain, verbose arguments began to lead some believers astray. The church's problem in Ephesus was one of altering the faith.

Paul wrote to Timothy, charging him to address and correct these falsehoods. But Timothy's job wasn't just to correct wrong teaching. Paul instructs him in how to lead the church in right behavior that is in keeping with the true gospel. Timothy was a young pastor. Paul had poured his own life into Timothy as he disciplined him. This letter served to continue that training process from a distance, instilling in Timothy clarity and boldness concerning the task before him.

We too face challenges to the truth of the gospel. We need to be prepared not only to refute falsehood, but to live productive and righteous lives as God's people. We have so much to learn from Paul's counsel to Timothy.

READING FOR NEXT WEEK

1Timothy 1:1-20; 4:1-5

