

January 29, 2017

Who was Timothy?

1. Timothy came from a spiritually divided home.
2. Timothy was young.
3. Timothy needed encouragement.
4. Timothy struggled with health problems.
5. Timothy was close to Paul.

What do we need to know about Ephesus?

1. Ephesus was an important city.
2. Ephesus was the home of the Artemisium.
3. Ephesus was the center of witchcraft in the ancient world.
4. Ephesus had a large Jewish population.
5. The simple preaching of the good news of Jesus transformed the city.
6. Spiritual wackos were infiltrating the church.

I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. Acts 20:29–32 (ESV)

The good news of Jesus was not something Paul and Timothy's created.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 1 Timothy 1:1–2 (ESV)

For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. Galatians 1:12 (ESV)

What happens when we are distracted from Jesus and the gospel?

As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. 1 Timothy 1:3–4 (ESV)

Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Galatians 3:2 (ESV)

Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— Galatians 3:5 (ESV)

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. Galatians 1:6–9 (ESV)

How were the Ephesians distracted from Jesus?

1. The Book of Jubilees
2. The Biblical Antiquities.

What are modern-day distractions from Jesus?

1. The Bible Code by Michael Drosin

2. The DaVinci Code by Dan Brown
3. Heaven is for Real by Todd Burpo
4. The Four Blood Moons by John Hagee
5. Extra-biblical teachings

What happens when we stay focused on Jesus and the gospel?

The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 1 Timothy 1:5 (ESV)

How can we find ourselves distracted from Jesus?

Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions. 1 Timothy 1:6-7 (ESV)

How can the Old Testament distract us from Jesus?

Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted. 1 Timothy 1:8-11 (ESV)

For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. Romans 3:20 (ESV)

Applications

1. Don't get distracted from Jesus.
2. Don't become bored with Jesus.
3. God tells us the only way to know Him is through Jesus.



1 Timothy 1:1-11
Don't Take Your
Eyes Off Jesus