1 TIMOTHY
1:1–7

PONDER › PRAY › PRACTICE › PROCLAIM

Read and study 1 Timothy 1:1–7.
> **Ponder:** Ponder the importance of right doctrine.
> **Pray:** Pray for the church's urgency and zeal in devotion to right doctrine.
> **Practice:** Pursue devotion to right doctrine by spending time every day in God's Word.
> **Proclaim:** Look for opportunities to share sound doctrine, for the purpose of faith in Christ, a transformed heart, and the love that issues from these.

» PONDER →

Ponder the importance of right doctrine.
The following questions can act as a guide for your meditation on this truth and its implications, helping both your personal reflection and your conversation with others in light of God's Word.

Paul tells Timothy to charge the Ephesians not to teach any different doctrine. If we are to avoid different doctrine, how do we know what right doctrine is?

- Consider how "sound doctrine" is defined and explained throughout Scripture.
- In contrast, consider how the Bible describes the opposite of sound doctrine.
    - o See the fuller context of this passage in 1 Timothy 1:8–11, and then cross references such as 1 Timothy 6:3, 2 Timothy 4:3–4, Titus 2:1, Romans 16:17–20, Ephesians 4:12–16.
    - o Use **stepbible.org** to do a word study on the word for "doctrine" to get a fuller picture of what this word means and how it is used throughout Scripture. For more on how to do a word study, check out **this article**.
- What is the danger of "different doctrine"?
    - o Read Galatians 1:6–9 and meditate on the gravity of turning to a different gospel, of distorting the gospel, and of preaching a contrary gospel.
    - o Read Ephesians 4:14. Pause to pray that you would recognize the different winds of doctrine that would threaten to toss you to and fro. Pray for the eyes to see the human cunning and deceitful schemes of the enemy that wants to lead you astray (John 10:3–5, 10; Mark 13:6; 1 Corinthians 12:2–3; Titus 3:3).

Why is it crucial for the church to guard sound doctrine, and to avoid those who do not teach it?

- Paul describes the aim of our charge as "love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith" (1:5).
    - o What makes a heart pure, a conscience good, and a faith sincere?
- How does the love that comes from these differ from how the world defines love? (1 John 4:7–21)
- What is the relationship between this love and sound doctrine? (1 John 2:1–6, 15-17, 26–29)
- Paul warns that if the pure heart, good conscience, and sincere faith are neglected, we will wander into vain discussion (1:6). Why is this dangerous?
    - o Consider how other biblical passages such as John 8:31–47, 2 Timothy 4:3–4, 2 Peter 2:10–21, and Philippians 3:18–19 speak to this.

» PRAY →

Pray for the church's urgency and zeal in devotion to right doctrine.
Read 1 Timothy 1:1–2 and pray in adoration of "God our Savior and Christ Jesus our hope."

- Father, thank you for the salvation we have received in you. You are our Savior and our hope, and we have nothing apart from you. In you, we have access to your endless grace, mercy, and peace. You have richly given us all that we need.

PRAY

Read and pray 1 Timothy 1:3–4.

- Pray for the church's urgency to refute false doctrine.
- Pray against complacency and the lies of the enemy that would lead us to believe that truth is relative, unimportant, or irrelevant to our lives.
- Pray for the church to be devoted to truth.
- Pray for the church's willingness to have conversations with others, stepping in to charge them to faithfully align with and teach what accords with sound doctrine.

Read and pray 1 Timothy 1:5.

- Pray in confession of the specific sins that make your heart impure.
- Ask the Lord to soften your heart and give you a conscience that is aligned with His Spirit and His Word, that responds rightly to truth and to conviction of sin.
- Pray for the Lord to deepen your faith, bringing your whole life in submission to God's and in alignment to your profession of faith.

PRACTICE

This week, pursue devotion to right doctrine by spending time every day in God's Word.

- Seek to establish a plan for your Bible reading, Bible study, prayer, and other spiritual disciplines that will help you.
    - o What will you read? When will you study? How will you prioritize and guard this time on your calendar?
    - o Consider if things like setting reminders on your phone or restricting access to social media can help you avoid distractions and be more diligent to prioritize Scripture.
    - o Consider additional disciplines that can reinforce what you're reading and studying, such as journaling or memorizing Scripture.
    - o Think about the music and podcasts you typically listen to, the entertainment you consume, and the conversation topics that are most frequent throughout your day. Do these things help your devotion to right doctrine, or distract from it?
- Make a plan for resources that can help you. Get a study Bible, and check our recommended resources and commentaries at **tcbchurch.org/1timothy**.
- Make a plan for people that can help you. Prioritize a weekly edifying community that will hold one another accountable and seek to build one another up into Christlikeness.
    - o Join the Equip Main Session on Wednesday nights, or a study group on Sunday mornings. Learn more at **tcbchurch.org/gogroups**.

PROCLAIM

This week, look for opportunities to share sound doctrine, for the purpose of faith in Christ, a transformed heart, and the love that issues from these.

- Pay attention to how often you talk about that which is "in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God" in comparison to how often you talk about whatever is contrary to the gospel.
- Pay attention to how often you think about things that are not true, or that are exaggerated, instead of what is true.
- Pay attention to how many of your conversations revolve around speculations instead of what we know from God's Word.
- Be intentional every day to pursue conversations that are edifying rather than those that are vain and pointless.
    - o Try every day to intentionally interject a gospel truth into at least one conversation.
    - o For more on how to do this, check out the resource *Turning Everyday Conversations into Gospel Conversations* and the corresponding **Blueprint Guide**.