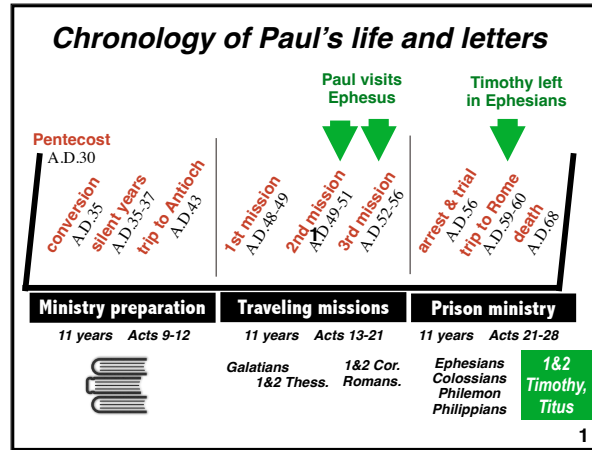


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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**1 Timothy 1:1-2**  
**Lesson #1**  
**Commission**  
**04/23/2023**



## 1 Timothy

*Operations Manual for  
Shepherding a troubled church.*

**Our Mission**

The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.

Ch.1      Ch.2-3      **3:15-16**      Ch.4-6      **6:11-12**

*1 Timothy 3:15*

“but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know **how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.”

1. **The church is always in need of change.**
2. **It starts at the top and on the inside.**

*1 Timothy 6*

“11 But **flee** from these things, you man of God; and **pursue** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. 12 **Fight** the good fight of faith; **take hold** of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good **confession** in the presence of many witnesses.”

“The three things I cannot change are the past, the truth, and you.”

**But I can change me.**

Anne Lamott

**Paul's commission (and ours)**

*1 Timothy 1*

“1 Paul, an **apostle** of Christ Jesus according to the **commandment (commission)** of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our **hope**;

2 to Timothy, my true child in **the faith: Grace, mercy and peace** from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”

## Major on majors, minor on minors.

**GOOD NEWS**  
The Word and Way of the Cross  
Romans 12:1-2

**GREAT COMMANDMENT**  
Love for God and His people  
Matthew 22:36-40

**GENERAL MANDATES**  
for the Body of Christ  
Ephesians 4:24



6

## GOOD NEWS The Word and Way of the Cross

*Romans 12*

“1 I urge you therefore, brethren, **by the mercies of God**, to present your bodies a **living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may **prove what the will of God is**, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

7

## Romans 12 Paul's Gospel

*vs 14-21*

**Our platform  
for social  
reform**

*vs 1a*

1.  
Grace of  
God deeply  
sensed

*vs 1b-2*

2.  
Cross of  
Christ willingly  
carried

**The order is  
important**



*vs 3-5*

3.  
Body of  
Christ rightly  
discerned

*vs 9-13*

5.  
Love for the  
brethren  
openly shown

*vs 6-8*

4.  
Gifts of the  
Spirit properly  
used

8

## GREAT COMMANDMENT Love for God and His people

*Matthew 22*

“36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And He said to him, “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.**’ 38 This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 The second is like it, **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**’ 40 On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

9



Respected  
as a nearly  
universal virtue

*Matthew 7:12*

“Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

10

## GENERAL MANDATES for the Body of Christ

*Ephesians 4*

“23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which **in the likeness of God** has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

11

## The Character mandate

*We bear the image of God.*

|  |  |
|--|--|
| World centered   | Church centered  |
| <b>The Creation mandate</b><br><i>We are stewards of the planet.</i>       | <b>The Conversion mandate</b><br><i>We are to make disciples.</i>            |
| <b>The Cultural (civil) mandate</b><br><i>We are our brother's keeper.</i> | <b>The Charismatic mandate</b><br><i>We have individual roles and gifts.</i> |

12

*Matthew 28*

“18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 **Go** therefore and **make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 **teaching them to observe all that I commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

- Until the 17th cent. this text was **applied to the Apostles only** and it was “fulfilled” in their lifetime.

*Romans 16:25-26*

“my Gospel . . . according to the commandment of God . . . **HAS BEEN** made known to all the nations.”

- The term “Great Commission” was not made common until the 19th cent. by **Hudson Taylor**.

13

*1 Timothy 1:1*

“Paul, an **apostle** of Christ Jesus according to the commission of God our Savior,”

The word “apostle” means **one who is sent**.

14

*Ephesians 2:20-21*

“having been built on the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the **corner stone**, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy **temple** in the Lord.”

The epistles of the New Testament (Apostolic teachings) are the foundation of Christian theology.

15

*John 14*

“25 These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.**”

*John 16:13*

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; . . . and **He will disclose to you what is to come.**”

This can be understood as Jesus’ endorsement of the apostles’ teaching.

16

*1 Corinthians 12:4-6*

“Now there are **varieties of gifts**, but the same Spirit. And there are **varieties of ministries**, and the same Lord. And there are **varieties of effects**, but the **same God who works all things in all persons.**”

*1 Peter 4:11*

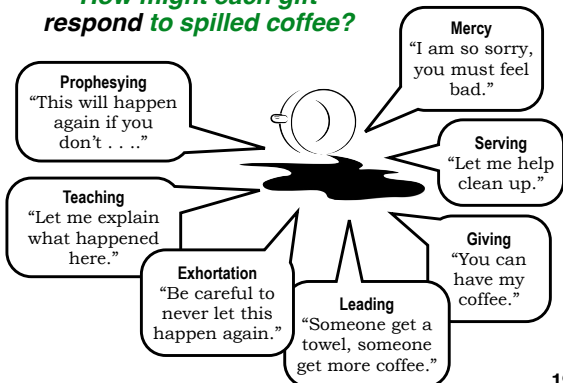
“**Whoever speaks**, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; **whoever serves** is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies.”

17

*We each have a **calling** to minister.  
Romans 12*

“6 And since we have **gifts that differ according to the grace given to us**, let each exercise them accordingly: if **prophecy**, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if **service**, in his serving; or he who **teaches**, in his teaching; 8 or he who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; he who **gives**, with liberality; he who **leads**, with diligence; he who shows **mercy**, with cheerfulness.”

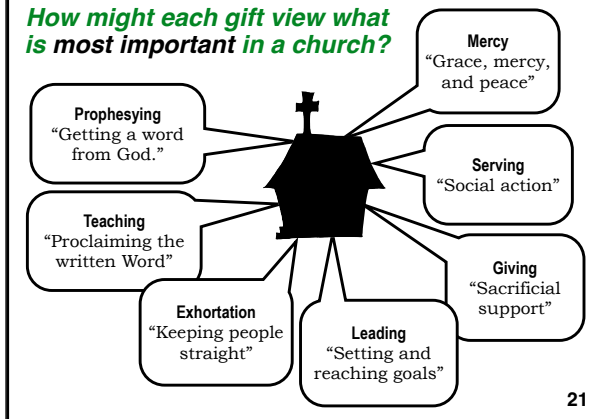
*How might each gift respond to spilled coffee?*



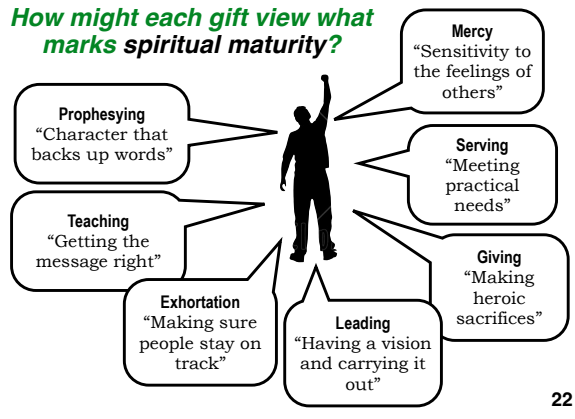
*Don’t measure spiritual value by YOUR gift!*



*How might each gift view what is most important in a church?*



*How might each gift view what marks spiritual maturity?*



*How might Fear & Anger be expressed through each gifts?*



*What should we expect to learn from this series on 1 Timothy?*

- ✓ Develop realistic **expectations**.
- ✓ **Responsibilities** start with us.
- ✓ Three big **challenges** -
  - diversity in the church,
  - Law & Grace,
  - the Way of the Cross.
- ✓ **Choose leaders** wisely.

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## A Berean's look at ...



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