



## Today's Message

Date: January 21, 2024

Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas

Title: ***Timothy's Charge, Pt. 1: Confront False Teachers***

Text: 1 Timothy 1:3–7 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. <sup>5</sup> The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. <sup>6</sup> Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, <sup>7</sup> desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

Introduction: Paul begins the body of his letter to Timothy with a charge, a command to his young protégé: remain in Ephesus to confront false teachers. Though Paul's command was specific to Timothy's context, it also applies to churches in every age. Paul said in 3:14-15,

*I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God.*

Confronting error in the church is an obligation given to us. It runs counter to the spirit of our age, but it is the only way to protect the truth entrusted to the church's care.

**I. Responsibility: We, the church, must confront false teachers. 3-4**

- A. We must confront distortions of the truth. 3
- B. We must confront distractions from the truth. 4
  - 1. Distractions cause strife.
  - 2. Distractions undermine God's message.

**II. Goal: We must confront false teachers to express and promote love. 5**

The right kind of love comes from:

- A. A pure heart.
- B. A good conscience.
- C. A sincere faith.

**III. Urgency: We must confront false teachers because their influence is destructive. 6-7**

- A. Their motive: They seek personal prominence.
- B. Their values: They abandon the truth for meaningless talk.
- C. Their character: They speak out of ignorance and arrogance.

**Today's take-home truth: To protect the truth the church must confront false teachers and correct their error.**