***The Pastoral Epistles "Goals of Biblical Instruction"* 1 Timothy 1:1-11 - 1/6/19**

*What are some of the goals of biblical instruction?*

The Pastoral Epistles are three letters written by the Apostle Paul to two young pastors; they are the books of 1 +2 Timothy and Titus.

The letters address things that would be crucial for pastors to understand, such as: church organization(including the appointment of elders/pastors, as well as deacons), church discipline, the opposition of rebellious members or false teachers, as well as the maintenance of doctrinal purity.

These letters help us understand a lot about church leadership and oversight.

**1 Timothy 1:1-4**

1) To Further Our Faith, Focus & Love For Jesus & His Ways, As Opposed To Fruitless Knowledge & Discussion

Spiritual knowledge has its place when rooted in biblical truth, but if it ends there, then we've missed the point.

We *need* Jesus - not just descriptions and depictions about Him.

*"The more we comprehend the Christ of the cross, the more inclined we are toward true reformation."* **\*John 12:32**

We shouldn't just want to know *about* Him, but to *know* Him!

**1 Timothy 1:5-7**

2) To Maintain Love, A Good Conscience & A Sincere Faith

There is a lot of fruitless discussion that often doesn't edify, nor does it produce faith or maintain love, but instead, it calcifies peoples consciences rather than helping them.

There are numerous discussions where, instead of increasing love, a good conscience and sincere faith, people leave confused, mad or even doubting God... And this shouldn't be.

Many issues have their place and need to be understood biblically, but the *goal* must be, *"love from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith"*. Having said this, doctrine is *very* important.

**1 Timothy 4:16 - 2 Timothy 1:13+14 - 1 Timothy 6:3+4(*a*) - Titus 1:9**

Our post-modern culture has been willingly conned into believing that *ultimate* truth is subjective (personal), as opposed to being objective (from God).

Does God Himself care about whether we understand Him in concrete and specific ways, or, is He okay with us understanding Him as "the flavor of the day"?

Do you care to be understood for who you really are, or, are you okay with just being "a face in the crowd"?

God cares *a lot* about how we understand Him, as revealed alone, in the Bible.

**1 Timothy 1:8-11**

3) To Be In Concert With The Glorious Gospel!

It was important for Timothy to "remain at Ephesus"(Vs.3), because it was a difficult place to serve God +further the kingdom; so he had to break-up the fallow ground, instead of running to an easier place.

Consider Paul's final words (Vs.11), concerning the 'glorious gospel': "*with which I have been entrusted*"... As have *we*, who are in Christ.