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The Letters I Wrote

1 Timothy 1:1-12

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There is much to be said in regards to first impressions.

What is in a greeting?

Paul's letter writing followed a standard format of the times.

Paul begins by stating his authority, and by what authority he holds that authority. His title and the manner through which he had the ability to claim it was serious business to him. In his time, the proclamation of being an Apostle of the crucified Jesus could almost be seen as an invitation to his own execution.

Paul continues his greeting by noting his relationship with his student Timothy.

What is the assignment?

We see that in this first verses that the teachers student is now a teacher himself. What is it that Timothy is to teach?

He is to keep other from teaching things that are contrary to the truth. Paul calls them strange doctrines, and by strange he is not implying the teaching of praying while standing on one's head.

Paul was instructing Timothy to teach to those that teach the basics of Christian doctrine.

What are the implications?

Paul goes on to explain the results of the teaching of the teachers. There are the direct results but there are also those that are implied.

Reading this morning's final verses:

"But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it properly."

We began by looking at first impressions, so I ask the question, what kind of first impression of the Christian faith do we leave with those that we meet?

If like Paul, we proclaim ourselves as followers of Christ, how loud would our proclamation be if it were under punishment of death?

Even more importantly, what is our commitment to the young in Christ?

If we lead them to Jesus and then simply ignore them, they will more than likely get discouraged.

Paul ensured that Timothy knew what he was required to do.