

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
SERMON OUTLINE
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**#2 - Book of I Timothy –
“FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH”**

“THE INSTRUMENT OF THE LAW”

1 Timothy 1:8-11

Paul had given the **Introduction to the leader (vs.1-2)** where he greets Timothy and blesses Timothy. In the opening verses of this epistle Paul **then gives the Intention of the letter Vs.3-7)**. Paul continues in this same theme as he declares the function of the law of God or The **Instrument** of the Law in today’s message.

Is a knife good or bad? Is fire good or bad? Is money good or bad? Many things are not good or bad, in and of themselves. Their worth is determined by: how they are used and why they are used. We need to keep that truth in mind as we approach our scripture text for today.

Paul declared the position of the law, the purpose of the law, and the priority of the law. Christian’s must have the proper understanding of the law to see the powerful use of the law. We cannot be **liberal** about the law and we cannot be **legalist** about the law. Now we see in this passage the **INSTRUMENT** of the Law:

I. IS USED TO TEACH US v-8

Now **V-8** needs to be understood against the backdrop of verse 7. He tells “we **know** that the law is good” ...”**IF**” And the “**if**” is the key to understanding this verse. The law is good “if one uses it lawfully/properly.” The Holy Spirit of God still uses the law of God to convict sinners of sin.

Often the reason for false doctrine is a misuse of the Old Testament Law. False teachers were leading believers out of the liberty of grace (Gal. 5:1-ff) into the bondage of legalism.

The flesh (our old nature) loves religious legalism because rules and regulations enable a person to *appear* holy without really having to change their heart.

We also learn that the law:

II. IS USED TO TAME US vs.9-11

What is the purpose of the law? Paul addressed that question at length in his Roman epistle. For example, in Romans 7:7 Paul wrote... The purpose of the law is to reveal to us what sin is. Paul concluded the issue in Romans 3:20: “Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.”

Let me ask you a question: who is the law made for, the righteous or for sinners? The answer: it is for sinners. That was Paul's point in verse 9 when he gave us this list of all kinds of sinners. The law is used to tame the sinner! The lawful use of the Law is to expose, restrain, and convict the lawless.

In this list he first deals with the **sins against God** just as the first four of the Ten Commandments do, he lists the “ungodly, sinful, unholy and profane.” And then he deals with **those sins against other people, “murderers, adulterers and (sodomites) homosexuals, kidnappers, liars and perjurers.”**

The instrument of the law is used **to teach us**, is used **to tame us**, and we also learn that it:

III. IS GIVEN AS A TRUST TO US V-11

The law included in the gospel is a glorious gospel. “**Glorious**” means “held in honor, of high repute, splendid.” The “**Gospel**” which is the Good News That Jesus Saves. The law and the gospel go together for the glory of God to bring sinners to saving faith in the Son!

Quote from A. W. Tozer...

Remember dear friend it is the
“GLORIOUS GOSPEL” that saves lost sinners,
not the law, whose purpose is to show us that we are
lost and needed to be Born Again in Christ and that
has been “committed to our trust.”