

**Recap of 6/28/26 message by Chris Sommerfield
("Follow the Truth, Teach the Truth") 1 Timothy 1:1-11**

- In this passage, Paul underscores the importance of teaching and sound doctrine in the Christian faith, contrasting it with false teachings that distort the truth and lead others astray. The aim of true teaching, he emphasizes, is love from a pure heart, pointing to the transformative power of the Gospel. Paul likely wrote this letter to Timothy in 62-66 AD near the end of his life.

- True teaching is rooted in Scripture leads to love and a godly life, while false teaching distracts and destroys. The interests of false teachers are "strange doctrines" and in the case of Ephesus they focused on myths and endless genealogies. This came from pridefulness in the false teachers who desired to be respected teachers of the law "even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions" (1:7). This teaching led to speculation that was fruitless. It produced no value in the community and ended up creating division while distracting believers from the truth of Scripture and the Gospel resulting in destruction. When we wander from the truth and latch onto false teaching we move in a direction further away from God. "We tend, by some secret law of the soul, to move toward our mental image of God... An inadequate view of God is actually idolatry" (A.W. Tozer). To worship God other than what He has revealed Himself to be is idolatry and it is destructive for our walk with Christ as it distorts the truths by which we are called to live.

- On the other hand, true teaching directs us to God's work centered in faith, encouraging unity and love within communities. It produces love "manifest and expressed by a heart cleansed of sin, a conscience cleared of guilt, and a faith cultivated in truth." We must follow the truth and teach the truth according to the Scriptures pointing people to the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the Glory of God!