



# The Goal, Aim, End, or Purpose of the Gospel

1 Timothy 1:3–5

# 1 Timothy 1:5

- “The **aim** of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith” (ESV).
- “But the **goal** of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith” (NASV).
- “But the **end** of the charge is love out of a pure heart and a good conscience and faith unfeigned” (ASV).

# Here's the point...

- The gospel's goal or purpose is first and foremost to save us from our sins. But beyond that, to change us inwardly.
- Its purpose is to produce within us a genuine **faith**, a faith that operates with a **clear conscience**, a faith that expresses itself in a **pure, sincere love**.
- Using Rom. 8:29, its aim is to transform us into the image of Christ.

# What about the outward?

- “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, **denying** ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should **live soberly, righteously, and godly** in the present age, **looking** for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, **zealous** for good works” (Titus 2:11–14).

# Implications

- Preaching on love is actually a very good idea!
  - Love's aim or goal (1 John 2:5).
- I've really missed the point if...
  - In this matter of **love**, I love something or someone more than God.
  - In this matter of **love**, I show partiality or prejudice; I'm a lousy husband or wife; I shut up my heart from my brethren; I am NOT free of hypocrisy; etc.

# Implications

- I've really missed the point if...
  - In this manner of faith, my faith is “borrowed” from someone else.
  - That faith won't stand up, and it won't produce the fruits it's designed to produce.
  - It certainly won't produce a clear conscience.

# Implications

- I've really missed the point if...
  - There is little evidence in my life of the fruit of the Spirit.
  - Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Gal. 5:22–23).

# Implications

- I've really missed the point if...
  - If there is little difference between ME and the WORLD—in my behavior, in my speech, in my dress, etc.
  - If my life is still ruled by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:15–17).



# Conclusion Reached by Some

- Why worry, then, about all this other “doctrinal stuff”?
- Do these doctrines even matter—the work, worship, and work of the local church; different views of the end times (e.g. premillennialism); the work of the Holy Spirit; miracles, etc.?

# The Truth

- None of these things would be considered the aim, the goal, or the end of the gospel.
- It's quite possible to “hold fast the pattern of sound words” (2 Timothy 1:13) on these points and still miss the BIG point—the aim, or the end, or the goal of such teaching.

# However...

- Sound teaching and practice on these same subjects, is a means to the end, and if we change the means, we will never have the desired end.
  - E.g., Ephesians 4:11–16
- Every point of truth is in accordance with godliness (1 Timothy 6:3), and if we change any portion of it, we will most certainly end up with something else.

# Healthy or Sick

- It's called "sound" doctrine, because it produces spiritual health.
- Add to, take from, or change in any way sound doctrine and it will ruin our health.
  - 2 Timothy 2:14–18.