

Title: Servant Encouragement – 1 Timothy 1 1-11

Read:

¹⁻²I, Paul, am an apostle on special assignment for Christ, our living hope. Under God our Saviour's command, I'm writing this to you, Timothy, my son in the faith. All the best from our God and Christ be yours! ³⁻⁴On my way to the province of Macedonia, I advised you to stay in Ephesus. Well, I haven't changed my mind. Stay right there on top of things so that the teaching stays on track. Apparently some people have been introducing fantasy stories and fanciful family trees that digress into silliness instead of pulling the people back into the centre, deepening faith and obedience. ⁵⁻⁷The whole point of what we're urging is simply love—love uncontaminated by self-interest and counterfeit faith, a life open to God. Those who fail to keep to this point soon wander off into cul-de-sacs of gossip. They set themselves up as experts on religious issues, but haven't the remotest idea of what they're holding forth with such imposing eloquence. ⁸⁻¹¹It's true that moral guidance and counsel need to be given, but the way you say it and to whom you say it are as important as what you say. It's obvious, isn't it, that the law code isn't primarily for people who live responsibly, but for the irresponsible, who defy all authority, riding roughshod over God, life, sex, truth, whatever! They are contemptuous of this great Message I've been put in charge of by this great God

Think:

Paul is writing to Timothy who is not only a close friend but also a student of Paul's. What does he do, before he gets down to the nitty gritty of his letter? He encourages Timothy. He is straight in there. "Hey Tim, I know it's hard and I know I put you in a tough place, but you doing a great job and you are there to stay." So let me start this new book with the same message to you. I know it's hard being a young Christian. I know that sometimes you have to make decisions that go against what everyone else is doing. I know that you get ripped into by those around you sometimes. I know that even if it's not true you feel that everyone is laughing at you. I know all of this, but I also know that you are in the right place. You may not be physically in the right place, but if you are following Jesus then just like Timothy you are doing a great job. Just like our man Tim you should feel the love that God sends to you, because God smiles when he sees his children doing what they know is right. One day God will say to you "Well done, my good and faithful servant" but today let me have the privilege of saying, well done, you are God's good and faithful servant.

Pray:

Lord my God, thank you for the love you send to me. Let me continue to be your good and faithful servant. Amen.

Action:

Sometimes we find it hard to accept that God appreciates even the little bit we can do. Today's action is for you to sit still just for a moment and feel God smile at you. Bye.