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Internet Shortcuts

Australia doesn't exist! And other bizarre geographic conspiracies that won't go away

A theory denying the existence of the country is gaining ground. But the suggestion that countries and cities are mere figments of our imagination is a meme that dates back to the birth of the web

*Paul's Letter to
the Disciple*



I Timothy

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1 Tim. 1:3-11

1. The Charge (3-4)
2. The Goal (5)
3. The Reasons (6-11)



The Charge (3-4)

A. Remain on at Ephesus (3)

- Did Timothy want to leave?
- Not found in Acts (after Rome? 28:16,30)

B. So that you may instruct certain men

- Not to teach strange doctrine
- Nor to pay attention to myths...



The Charge (3-4)

- Not to teach **strange** doctrine
 - *Another of a different kind*
 - Different from *what*?
 - Who decides what is *not strange*?
 - How do we distinguish between *strange* and *not strange*?



The Charge (3-4)

- **Strange** doctrine

- Doesn't promote love (1:5) but envy, strife, friction (4:4-5)

- Not in line with the law or gospel (1:8-11)

- Comes from demons and liars (4:1-2)

- Doesn't agree with Jesus' words (6:3)

- Doesn't conform to godliness (6:3)



The Charge (3-4)

- Nor to pay attention to myths...
 - Most likely the *Haggadah*
 - Part of the oral law / *tradition*
 - *Embellishment* of the written law
 - Imaginative stories & genealogies
 - E.g. - *The Book of Jubilees* (c. 150 BC)
 - See Titus 1:10-16



The Charge (3-4)

- What's the problem?
 - *Speculation* – no definite truth
 - Allegory, fanciful, *deeper meanings*
 - God desires all to know *the truth* (2:4)
 - Not furthering God's program
 - *Stewardship* – see Titus 1:7-9
 - *Body-building* (Eph. 4:14-16)



The Goal (5)

- The goal is *love*

- Mark of a disciple (John 13:35)

- Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22)

- Builds *the Body* (Eph. 4:16)

- Context for spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12-14)

- Comes from knowing God (1 John 4:7-8)

- The greatest command (Matt. 22:37-39)



The Goal (5)

- The goal is *love* out of:
 - *Pure heart – unpolluted by sin*
 - Ps. 24:3-4 (cf. James 4:8b); 51:10; 2 Tim. 2:20-22; Titus 1:10-16
 - Good conscience – free from guilt; nothing between you and God or man (Acts 23:1; 24:16; 2 Cor. 1:12; Heb. 13:18)



The Goal (5)

- The goal is *love* out of:
 - *Sincere* faith – *unhypocritical*
 - Genuine; not lip-service or play-acting
 - Knowledge of, and confidence in, God and His promises (see 2 Tim. 1:5; Heb. 11)



The Goal (5)

- True, godly love flows from a heart that wants what God wants, that does what God asks, and believes what God says (cf. Gal. 5:6, 13-14; Phil. 1:9-11)



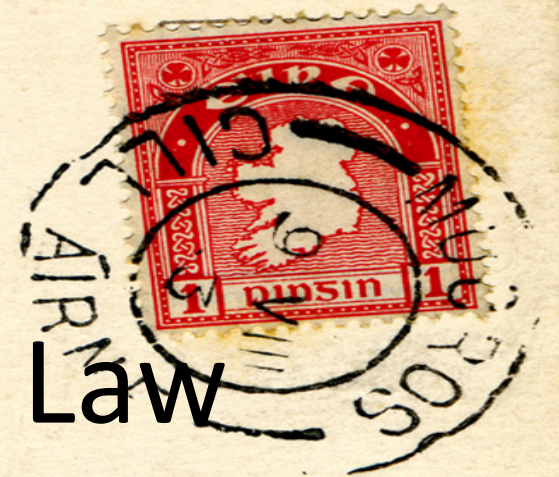
The Reason (6-11)

- Some have *changed their aim*
 - From *these things* – pure heart, good conscience, sincere faith
 - To *fruitless* discussion – *aimless, ineffectual for reaching the goal* (cf. Titus 1:10-11)



The Reason (6-11)

- Some have *changed their aim*
 - Wanting to be teachers of the Law
 - Personal recognition (Acts 20:29-30)
 - Monetary gain (1 Tim. 6:3-5; Titus 1:11)
- Even though they don't understand...
 - How can Paul make this statement?
 - Must be a way to know what is true!



The Reason (6-11)

- But we know that the Law is good
 - Shows God's holiness
 - Shows us sin (*transgression*)
 - Shows our falling short
 - Shows our need of a Savior!
 - Shows God's will for man – love! (Eph. 5:1-2; Rom. 13:8-10; Gal. 5:13-14)



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The Reason (6-11)

- But we know that the Law is good
 - If one uses it lawfully
 - Learn about God's holiness
 - Learn about God's expectations
 - Learn about love
 - Learn about righteous living



The Reason (6-11)

- Law is for those who are:

- Lawless/rebellious
- Ungodly/sinners
- Unholy/ profane

- *No other gods - #1*
- *No images - #2*
- *Sabbath - #3*
- *Name in vain - #4*



The Reason (6-11)

- Law is for those who are:
 - Father/mother killers - #5
 - Murderers - #6
 - Immoral / homosexual - #7
 - *Men-stealers* - #8
 - Liars / perjurers - #9



The Reason (6-11)

- And *whatever else* is contrary to sound teaching
 - *The Law* <-> *sound teaching*
 - *Strange* is opposed to the Law (see 3)
 - Any doctrine must align with the Law
 - *Sound = healthy* → *promotes health* (4:6)
 - *Strange* is spiritually unhealthy



The Reason (6-11)

- According to the glorious gospel
 - *The Law <-> the gospel*
 - Moral conduct, not justification!
 - Standards of holy living/godliness (4:12)
 - Sound teaching <-> godly conduct
 - The gospel <-> godly conduct



John Stott

“There is no antithesis between law and gospel in the moral standards which they teach; the antithesis is in the way of salvation, since the law condemns, while the gospel justifies.”



The Reason (6-11)

- According to the glorious gospel
- With which I have been entrusted
 - As an apostle (1:1; Rom. 1:1-6; Gal. 1:6-12; 2:1-10; 1 Thess. 2:1-8)
 - Paul's teaching was always in line with the gospel that he had received, and it pointed toward love (fulfilling the law)



So What?

- We need to be on guard!
 - Alert for *strange* doctrine
 - Watching for false teachers
 - Ready to call it out
 - Ready to correct it
- We need to pursue healthy doctrine – that which promotes love



So What?

- Some tests for doctrine:
 - In line with the law?
 - In line with the gospel?
 - In line with the apostles' teaching?



So What?

- Does this doctrine:
 - Promote *the truth* or ignorance?
 - Promote clarification or ambiguity?
 - Promote unity or division?
 - Promote *'one-another's* or self?

