The Goal of Our Instruction Is Love
I Timothy 1:1-7

Introduction:
What does God have to say about the church?

“I am writing these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.” I Timothy 3:14-15

I. The church is God’s idea.

The church is God’s plan to reach a lost world.

“On this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” Matthew 16:18

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19-20
The church is God’s plan to display his wisdom to the heavenly realms.

“His intent was that now through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.” Ephesians 3:10

Christ loves his church. He died for the church.

“Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.” Ephesians 5:25

Background to I Timothy

Timothy was a young pastor whom Paul had place in charge of the church at Ephesus. Ephesus was the principle city in Asia Minor. The church in Ephesus began during Paul’s second missionary journey around AD 49-52.

Paul writes as an apostle of Christ Jesus. (An apostle is one sent with a message.) He is an apostle by the command of God. He writes with Divine authority.
II. The church is built on the Word of God.
I Timothy 1:3-4, 6-7
The church needs solid Bible teaching if it is to produce healthy Christians. Sound doctrine is healthy and wholesome. It produces fruit and gives life. False doctrine divides and destroys.

What we really need is to know God’s Word.

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
II Timothy 3:14-15

III. The church is built on love – for God and for people.
I Timothy 1:5
The goal of this command is love.

The Greatest Commandment is to love the Lord our God… and the second is to love your neighbor as yourself.
Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus said, “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
John 13:35
Paul wrote, “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”
Galatians 5:6

This love comes from:
• A pure heart
• A good conscience
• A sincere faith.

Conclusion:

Doctrine and life (truth and love) must always go together!

The church is built on both. So is our walk with Christ.

May we make it our aim this year to:
• Grow in our knowledge of the Scripture, and
• Grow in our love for God and for one another.

What will you do to make that happen in your life?