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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
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I Timothy Book Study (#6)

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TROUBLE-SHOOTING MINISTRY

Timothy was left at Ephesus by Paul for a Trouble-shooting ministry:

(1 Tim.1:3) "As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines."

Paul was engaged in New Covenant (NC) theology training and mentoring of men, with the communication gifts, who caught Paul's vision of missionary evangelism (Eph.4:11-13; 1 Tim.4:14-16; 2 Tim.4:50).

NOTE: After examining briefly Paul's NT books looking for names of these trained Trouble-shooters, I found over 30. Those most familiar to us are Timothy, Titus, Mark, Luke, and Apollos. Paul also mentioned several who had deserted Grace Doctrines (1 Tim.1:19-20; 2 Tim. 1:15; 2:17; 4:10).

<p>This lesson will study <u>five aspects</u> of the Trouble-shooting Ministry.</p>

1. Pay special attention to Paul's instruction to Timothy regarding his Trouble-shooting ministry at Ephesus.

Timothy's trouble-shooting ministry was temporary and specific in its task (1 Tim.3:14-15; 4:13-16).

(1 Tim.2:14-15) "I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the **household of God, which** is the pillar and support of the truth." (1 Tim.3:14-15/ writing)

Note these additional phrases:

- "Prescribe and teach," (1 Tim.4:11; 5:7 and 6:2b)
- "It is a trustworthy statement," (1 Tim.1:15; 3:1; 4:9)
- "I charge you," (1 Tim.5:21; 6:13)

We modeled the organization and ministry of DSBC after the teaching of the Pastoral Epistles.

2. The first issue for Timothy to address was the false doctrines that were attacking Grace Salvation, Spirituality, and Basic doctrines like Dispensations (1 Tim.1:4) [Church Age] (1 Tim.1:13-17; Rom.10:4).

It is the same old fight with the Judaizers as in (Acts 15:1-5, 10-11)

- "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."
- "But some of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed stood up, saying, 'It is necessary to circumcise them (salvation) and to direct them to observe the Law of Moses (Spirituality).'" (Acts 15:5) [Works]
- "But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are." (Acts 15:11)

- “It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us (Apostles and elders) (Acts 15:6) to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials.” (Acts 15:28) [**The Apostolic Creed**]

3. The Apostolic Creed of the New Covenant declared in (Acts 15:22-29) was read to every church congregation.

(Acts 15:30) “So when they were sent away, they went down to **Antioch**; and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter.”

(Acts 16:4-5) “Now while they were passing through the cities, they were **delivering the decrees which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem**, for them to observe. So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily.” [Paul’s second missionary trip]

4. When we read the Pastoral Epistles, we learn that the Pauline trouble-shooters were sent to deal with and minister to local church issues.

It could involve these eight areas:

- correcting false doctrine, or
- establishing a grace oriented church organization, or
- training men and women in church leadership responsibilities, or
- qualifying and ordaining deacons, or
- training and ordaining communicators, or
- dealing with internal conflicts, or
- ministering to congregation needs, or
- training in custodianship of evangelism.

5. Allow me to give an example of the trouble-shooting ministry of DSBC involved in dealing with false doctrines.

(1 Tim.6:3-5) “**If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words**, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understand nothing; but he has a morbid interests in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved minds and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.”

Pastors often send men, with a communication gift, to our [School of Biblical Theology](#) (SBT) for additional training. This example involves such a young man.

(Titus 1:9-11) “Holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so **that he will be able to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict**. For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, who must **be silenced because they are upsetting whole families**, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.”