

## RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 62)

THE PERPETUITY OF THE TYRANNUS PLAN. Paul's concern for the continuance of the Tyrannus plan is evidenced in his two letters to Timothy. Timothy was Paul's son in the faith and his most trustworthy disciple. Regarding Timothy Paul said, "I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you...For I have no man likeminded, who will sincerely care for your state" (Philippians 2:19-20). Timothy was discipled by Paul to the extent that he was an extension of Paul's discipline of mind. Paul sent Timothy to Ephesus to assure the viability of the Tyrannus plan. Scroggie comments on Paul's decision to send Timothy to Ephesus. "He had found that during the years of confinement, heresies had entered the Church at Ephesus, as he had predicted they would (Acts 20:28-30); and for that reason, instead of taking Timothy with him into Macedonia, he left him at the Asian city that he might 'charge some that they teach no other doctrine.' The object, then, of this and the companion Epistles is mainly two-fold: to caution and to confirm." Paul wrote to Timothy so he would know how "to behave himself in the house of God, which is the pillar and ground of truth" (I Timothy 3:15). Paul specifically told Timothy to emphasize sound doctrine. With this concern, Paul instructed Timothy on the requirements for ministry, in particular bishops (elder/pastors) and deacons. Halley thinks "there must have been hundreds of pastors in Ephesus...leaders of congregations." Elders were always men (Ephesians 2:11-12; 3:2). Pastors of house churches were leaders who were responsible for the teaching and pastoral oversight. They were equippers (Ephesians 4:12-13). They were the primary trainers of disciples in the church. Others could serve, and even teach, but elders were always men called by the Lord Jesus Christ to be responsible for the vision and oversight of the congregations. Timothy's main mission in Ephesus was to work with the congregational leaders. He was sent to develop more pastors from the pool of disciples.