**Sermon notes – Sunday 12th September**

**‘Does it matter what we believe?’ 1Timothy 1:1-11**

**Background.**

Timothy had ben nurtured in his faith by his mother, Eunice and his grandmother Lois (2 Tim 1:5)

* Who nurtured your faith?
* What role do you have in nurturing the faith of others?
* What do we see here of the importance of passing on the faith from one generation to another and the place of parenting and grandparenting to achieve that?

Timothy’s life changed dramatically when Paul arrived in Lystra on his 2nd Missionary journey and decided to take Timothy along with him and mentor him in faith (Acts 16-5).

* Do you have someone who is like a mentor to you, prays for you, invests in your spiritual journey?
* Do you mentor someone else? If not, could you?

Timothy was commanded by Paul to stay in Ephesus and deal with a very difficult situation in the church, when he really wanted to leave and get away.

* Recall occasions when you have wanted to walk away from a challenging situation: a situation at work, a difficult relationship, an exhausting responsibility, a confrontational conversation etc
* What was the outcome? Perhaps you are going through it right now. Pray for one another for strength to stand and do the right thing.

Timothy was commanded to confront false doctrine and contend for the truth. Pilate asked Jesus, ‘What is truth?’ (John 18:38).

* Where might the church be wrestling over truth today in this generation.

Jesus used the word ‘truth’ a lot. Over 80 times in the 4 gospels he says, ‘I tell you the truth’. See also John 14:6, John 8:31,32

* How do we relate the uncompromising (and to modern ears, offensive) words of Jesus to our society today where truth is relative and conditional?
* What is the Holy Spirit saying to you today as you study this passage?
* How can we pray for one another as we live out our faith following Jesus?