

Book of 1Timothy

Synopsis



Introduction

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| Book No | 54 |
| Name | 1Timothy |
| Written By | Paul |
| Testament | New |
| Category | Epistles |
| Date Written | Approx. 64 A.D |
| Place Written | Rome |
| Audience | Timothy |
| Purpose | To give encouragement and instruction to Timothy, a young leader |
| History Covered | NA |
| Chapters | 6 |
| Verses | 113 |
| Key Verse | Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. (4:12) |
| Key People | ❖ Paul ❖ Timothy |
| Key Places | ❖ Ephesus |

Purpose of the Book

The primary purpose of the epistle was to encourage Timothy in his difficult task of dealing with doctrinal errors and practical problems in the church at Ephesus, and to give him instructions concerning pastoral responsibilities and the qualifications and duties of church leadership.

Timothy is a prime example of one who was influenced by godly relatives. His mother, Eunice, and grandmother Lois were Jewish believers who helped shape his life and promote his spiritual growth (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15). The first “second generation” Christian mentioned in the New Testament, Timothy became Paul’s protégé and pastor of the church at Ephesus. As a young minister, Timothy faced all sorts of pressures, conflicts, and challenges from the church and his surrounding culture. To counsel and encourage Timothy, Paul sent this very personal letter.

Paul wrote 1 Timothy in about A.D. 64, probably just prior to his final Roman imprisonment. Because he had appealed to Caesar, Paul was sent as a prisoner to Rome (see Acts 25–28). Most scholars believe that Paul was released in about A.D. 62 (possibly because the “statute of limitations” had expired), and that during the next few years he was able to travel.

During this time, he wrote 1 Timothy and Titus. Soon, however, Emperor Nero began his campaign to eliminate Christianity. It is believed that during this time Paul was imprisoned again and eventually executed. During this second Roman imprisonment, Paul wrote 2 Timothy. Titus and the two letters to Timothy comprise what are called the “Pastoral Letters.”

Paul’s first letter to Timothy affirms their relationship (1:2). Paul begins his fatherly advice, warning Timothy about false teachers (1:3-11) and urging him to hold on to his faith in Christ (1:12-20). Next, Paul considers public worship, emphasizing the importance of prayer (2:1-7) and order in church meetings (2:8-15). This leads to a discussion of the qualifications of church leaders—elders and deacons. Here Paul lists specific criteria for each office (3:1-16).

Paul speaks again about false teachers, telling Timothy how to recognize them and respond to them (4:1-16). Next, he gives practical advice on pastoral care to the young and old (5:1-2), widows (5:3-16), elders (5:17-25), and slaves (6:1-2). Paul concludes

by exhorting Timothy to guard his motives (6:3-10), to stand firm in his faith (6:11-12), to live above reproach (6:13-16), and to minister faithfully (6:17-21).

First Timothy holds many lessons. If you are a church leader, take note of Paul's relationship with this young disciple—his careful counsel and guidance. Measure yourself against the qualifications that Paul gives for overseers and deacons. If you are young in the faith, follow the example of godly Christian leaders like Timothy, who imitated Paul's life. If you are a parent, remind yourself of the profound effect a Christian home can have on family members. A faithful mother and grandmother led Timothy to Christ, and Timothy's ministry helped change the world.

This letter not only guided Timothy in fulfilling his responsibilities as a church leader, but it has been a handbook for pastors throughout the whole church age. A clear lesson gleaned from Paul's instructions is that the church must have a well-trained, deeply devoted, and highly consecrated ministry.

Furthermore, ministers must stay in constant touch with God through prayer and study of the Bible (see 2:1, 8; 4:6, 12–16). The pastor must first nourish his own soul in the words of faith and good doctrine (4:6) and then teach the people the essentials of the faith (4:11). Practicing godliness in his own conduct, he must bring his congregation to do the same (4:16).

Overview

- ❖ 54th book of the BIBLE, 15th in the New Testament, 10th of the 21 epistles and 10th of the 14 epistles written by Paul
- ❖ Paul's last three epistles are often referred to the "Pastoral Epistles." In order of writing, they are.
 - 1 Timothy
 - Titus
 - 2 Timothy.
- ❖ Concerning Timothy:
 - He was a native of Lystra where Paul was stoned and left for dead during his 1st missionary journey.
 - His father was a Greek.
 - His mother was Eunice.
 - His grandmothers was Lois.

- Timothy was converted during Paul's 1 missionary journey.
- ❖ During Paul's 2nd missionary journey, he revisited Lystra and decided to take Timothy with him in the work.
- ❖ Even though the Law of Moses had ended, Timothy was circumcised due to the work they would be doing among the Jews.
- ❖ Timothy helped Paul in such a places as:
 - Troas
 - Thessalonica
 - Ephesus
 - Berea
 - Corinth
 - Rome
- ❖ According to Hebrews 13:23, there was a time when Timothy was imprisoned.
- ❖ In 1 Timothy, Paul is writing to the younger evangelist to strengthen him in his work and for the challenges he will face in the future. Timothy was to:
 - Appoint elders.
 - Oppose and combat false doctrines.
 - Be an example to others.
 - Exercise his spiritual gifts.
 - "Fight the good fight of faith."
- ❖ Timothy was to be ready to deal with:
 - False teaching and false teachers.
 - Proper organization of the church.
 - Elders
 - Deacons
 - Discipline
 - Proclamation of the Scriptures
 - Poverty
 - Wealth
 - The roles of various groups.
- ❖ Timothy was to:
 - Refute error.
 - Teach truth

Hebrew Names of GOD used in 1Timothy

NA

Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

The deity of Jesus is apparent, because Paul equates Him with God the Father (1:1, 2; 3:16) and proclaims His universal sovereignty and eternal nature (6:15, 16). Jesus is the source of grace, mercy, and peace (1:2, 14) who commanded Paul's apostleship (1:1) and enabled him for service (1:12). Christ is both Lord (1:2, 12, 14; 5:21; 6:3, 14, 15) and Savior (1:1, 15) "who gave Himself a ransom for all" (2:6). By virtue of His redemptive work He is the "one Mediator between God and men" (2:5), the way of access to God. He who became incarnate has ascended (3:16). Meanwhile, He is our hope (1:1), and the promise of His return is an incentive to fidelity in service and to purity in life (6:14).

Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

Direct references to the Holy Spirit in 1 Timothy are rare, but He was at work from the inception of the church at Ephesus (see Acts 19:1-7). The "intercessions" (2:1) are prayers that involve the Holy Spirit's assistance (Rom. 8:26, 27). The statement that "the Spirit expressly says" (4:1) underscores the continuing activity of the Holy Spirit and Paul's sensitivity to His promptings. In 4:14 Paul reminds Timothy of "the gift" that was given to him "by prophecy," a special ability for ministry given as a charisma of the Spirit when hands were laid on him. Further, "a good testimony" (3:7) would also include a leader's being "full of the Holy Spirit" as with the first appointment of leaders (Acts 6:3).

Mega Themes of 1Timothy

SOUND DOCTRINE

Paul instructed Timothy to preserve the Christian faith by teaching sound doctrine and modeling right living. Timothy had to oppose false teachers, who were leading church members away from belief in salvation by faith in Jesus Christ alone.

We must know the truth in order to defend it. We must cling to the belief that Christ came to save us. We should stay away from those who twist the words of the Bible for their own purposes.

PUBLIC WORSHIP

Prayer in public worship must be done with a proper attitude toward God and fellow believers.

Christian character must be evident in every aspect of worship. We must rid ourselves of any anger, resentment, or offensive behavior that might disrupt worship or damage church unity.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Paul gives specific instructions concerning the qualifications for church leaders so that the church might honor God and operate smoothly.

Church leaders must be wholly committed to Christ. If you are a new or young Christian, don't be anxious to become a leader in the church. Seek to develop your Christian character first. Be sure to seek God, not your own ambition.

PERSONAL DISCIPLINE

It takes discipline to be a leader in the church. Timothy, like all pastors, had to guard his motives, minister faithfully, and live above reproach. Any pastor must keep morally and spiritually fit.

To stay in good spiritual shape, you must discipline yourself to study God's Word and to obey it. Put your spiritual abilities to work!

CARING CHURCH

The church has a responsibility to care for the needs of all its members, especially the sick, the poor, and the widowed. Caring must go beyond good intentions.

Caring for the family of believers demonstrates our Christlike attitude and exhibits genuine love to nonbelievers.

Life Lessons in 1Timothy

| Truth | Lesson |
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| <p>Growing in Godliness</p> <p>God's Word instructs in godly conduct, which comes from godly attitudes in life and worship. If the heart is tuned to God, modesty and</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Dress with appropriate modesty. Emphasize internal beauty. ❖ Be disciplined in body, soul, and spirit, knowing that godliness is beneficial in every way. |

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| <p>acceptable worship will result. God has defined godliness in the example of the Lord Jesus Christ, and He sent the Holy Spirit to conform us to His image.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Conduct yourself in an exemplary manner. |
| <p>Cultivating Dynamic Devotion</p> <p>Wise believers do not allow themselves to become distracted from their devotion by extraneous arguments and legends that lead one away from Scripture. Realizing that truth is more practice than theory, judge all teaching by what it produces, not by how it sounds. Therefore, avoid the deception of demonically inspired teachings that sound good, but bring destruction and death in the end.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Teach only sound, biblical doctrine. Do not attempt to teach what you do not fully understand. ❖ Operate from a motive of love, faith, and good conscience in all you do. ❖ Recognize that the law is to instruct and judge the ungodly, not to induce condemnation in the righteous. ❖ Be warned that some will abandon faith in Jesus Christ for demonically inspired teaching. ❖ Understand that hypocrisy is an open door to deceiving spirits. ❖ Guard carefully the truth you have been taught! Reject human knowledge that denies the faith. |
| <p>Pursuing Holiness</p> <p>Holiness does not reject that which God has created for human benefit, nor does it condemn those who rightly use what God has called good. The source of holiness is a personal relationship with Jesus, not a system of works.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Reject teaching that bases holiness on works. ❖ Receive thankfully the natural blessings from God. Sanctify by prayer what you so receive. |
| <p>The Walk of Faith</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Heed confirmed, prophetic utterances. Recognize their value in spiritual |

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| <p>Prophetic “words” can be the basis for much hope and faith for many. These utterances can encourage us to endure ferocious and demanding battles as we carry out the Lord’s will. Weigh these “words” carefully.</p> | <p>warfare and maintaining strong, positive faith. Know that faith and a good conscience keep you from spiritual disaster.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Recognize that excellence in Christian ministry often involves long and arduous struggles. Do not give up; stand firm. Endure in your struggle for righteousness regardless of the cost. |
| <p>Lessons for Leaders</p> <p>Christian leadership should conform to the scriptural requirements given here, being stable in the basics of life and grounded in the faith. All leadership must be established on the motivation of service, and is to maintain faithful order in the church. All God’s people are to pray constantly for those who have authority and responsibility over the church as well as throughout society.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Leaders, lead in regular, fervent prayer for civil authority. Pray that the gospel will spread and God’s people will be protected. ❖ Leaders, open leadership roles to those who are qualified. Refuse leadership responsibility to anyone who is unqualified spiritually. ❖ Leaders, recognize and honor those who help in practical service to the church. ❖ Leaders, include in ministry the public reading of Scripture. ❖ Leaders, establish a benevolence fund for widows and others who are in genuine need. Be faithful to help those who have no other means of legitimate family support. ❖ Leaders, do not involve others in roles of responsible leadership too quickly. ❖ Leaders, avoid the love of money. Reprove any covetousness among God’s people. Encourage contentment. |

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| | ❖ Leaders, teach your congregation to honor the Lord with their wealth. |
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Praise Points in 1Timothy

- ❖ The certain hope he has given us in Christ (1:1)
- ❖ The abundance of his grace, even to the worst of sinners (1:13-15)
- ❖ His majesty and power, making him infinitely able to meet our needs (1:17; 6:15-16)
- ❖ His provision of a Mediator to pay our ransom with his life (2:5-6)
- ❖ His provision of godly leaders to nurture and guide his people (3:1-12; 5:17)
- ❖ The creation he has given for us to enjoy (4:3-5; 6:17)
- ❖ The blessings that come from godliness (4:7-8)
- ❖ His plan for loving care within the local congregation (5:3-10)
- ❖ His promise of Jesus Christ's return (6:14-15).

Worship Insights in 1Timothy

An unclear view of God can make worship dull and disappointing, and an untrue knowledge of God can make worship impossible. False teachers were spoiling the joy of Timothy's congregation with debates over myths and genealogies and other pointless chatter.

Paul tried to encourage Timothy to counter all this soul-deadening nonsense with a fresh look at who God is and how he should be worshiped and served. The God we meet in Paul's pastoral letter is an awe-inspiring Creator dwelling in unapproachable light, but he is also Father and Savior. He is the Ruler, the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, but also the one who pours out abundant grace upon the worst of sinners! How fervently Paul desired that the believers in the church at Ephesus would be renewed to take up the worshipful refrain, "To him be honor and power forever. Amen" (6:16).

First Timothy is a worship treasury, recording for us some of the first Christian liturgies. There are doxologies in 1:17 and 6:15-16, part of a hymn in 3:16, and what was probably a brief confession in 2:5-6. We catch a glimpse of physical gestures in worship as believers lift hands in prayer (2:8) and elders lay on hands in an ordination ceremony (4:14). We hear the reading of Scripture, preaching, teaching, and prayers of thanksgiving (4:3-5). Indeed, the Holy Spirit urges us to join this congregation in

worship through prayer and thanksgiving and through godly living, the fruit of Christians worshipping the true God (2:1-3).

If our mind wanders in worship, or if we are distracted by human frailty, our worship may be renewed by a fresh awakening to the mystery and majesty of God. Since God is infinite and we are finite, we will never understand him fully. “He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies” (1:17); he “lives in light so brilliant that no human can approach him” (6:16). Our God is so great that we are drawn by awe and humility to worship him.

This does not mean, however, that we cannot know him at all. In Jesus Christ, God became knowable to human beings. The invisible God took on the limitations of a human body and invaded our world to become the “Mediator . . . the man Christ Jesus” (2:5). Now he sets himself before us, inspiring our love and trust. In light of this truth, let us magnify the Lord with our praise as we gather for worship and serve him in the world.

- ❖ Worship is our response to reflecting on God’s majesty (1:17; 6:15-16).
- ❖ Worship should include prayers of intercession and thanksgiving (2:1-3).
- ❖ Prayer in corporate worship comes from believers who are living holy lives (2:8).
- ❖ Worship should be conducted with humility and in an orderly way (2:8-15).
- ❖ Worshipers should not distract others by what they do or wear (2:9).
- ❖ Genuine worship is validated by a lifestyle known for good deeds (2:10).

An Outline of 1Timothy

I. Maintaining the Glow: 1Ti_1:1-20

- A. Know Your Calling: 1Ti_1:1-2
- B. Know Your Gospel: 1Ti_1:3-11
- C. Know Yourself: 1Ti_1:12-17
- D. Know Your Mission: 1Ti_1:18-20

II. The Life and Worship of the Church: 1Ti. 2:1-3:13

- A. Can Prayer Change the World?: 1Ti_2:1-8
- B. Troubling Questions About Women in the Church: 1Ti_2:9-15
- C. The Office of Bishop: 1Ti_3:1-7
- D. The Office of Deacon: 1Ti_3:8-13

III. Wise Counsel for a Young Pastor: 1Ti. 3:14-4:16

- A. The Mystery of Godliness: 1Ti_3:14-16**
- B. The Approaching Apostasy: 1Ti_4:1-5**
- C. The Power of Godly Living: 1Ti_4:6-10**
- D. An Urgent Appeal: 1Ti_4:11-16**

IV. A Church That Cares: 1Ti. 5:1-6:2

- A. Different Strokes for Different Folks: 1Ti_5:1-2**
- B. Special Strokes for Special Folks: 1Ti_5:3-16**
- C. The Care of Leaders: 1Ti_5:17-20**
- D. Take Care of Yourself: 1Ti_5:21-25**
- E. Even Masters Need Care: 1Ti_6:1-2**

V. Sound Doctrine and Right Living: 1Ti_6:3-21

- A. Avoid the False Teachers: 1Ti_6:3-5**
- B. The Love of Money: A Root of Evil: 1Ti_6:6-10**
- C. A Solemn and Joyous Charge: 1Ti_6:11-16**
- D. P.S.: To the Rich: 1Ti_6:17-19**
- E. P.P.S.: To Timothy: 1Ti_6:20-21**