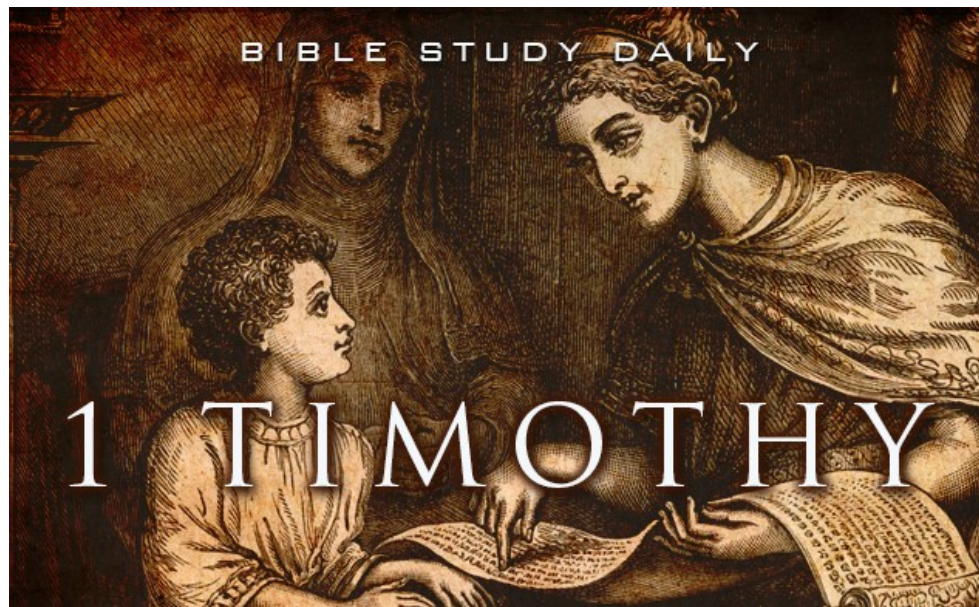




BIBLE STUDY DAILY



This document contains the introduction to the book of 1 Timothy as well as my study notes for the book.

Name

The title “1 Timothy” comes from the intended audience designated in 1:2, “To Timothy my true son in the faith.” The the body of the epistle makes it clear that Paul’s intended audience is Timothy, with the expectation that Timothy will teach others what Paul is teaching him in the letter.

Author

Paul explicitly claims authorship of 1 Timothy in 1:1.

Externally, many of the early church fathers attribute the book of 1 Timothy to Paul including: Irenaeus, Tertullian, Clement of Alexandria, Polycarp, and Clement of Rome.

Note: Pauline authorship of the pastoral epistles (1 & 2 Timothy and Titus) remained unchallenged until the early 1800's when liberal scholar J.E.C. Schmidt denied they were authentic to Paul. None of Schmidt's claim's supporting his argument of non-Pauline authorship holds up under scrutiny.

Genre

Epistle

Literary Form

The epistle to the 1 Timothy is a personal letter that includes sections of encouragement and instruction.

Time Frame


Most conservative scholars believe 1 Timothy was the first of the Pastoral Epistles to be written with Titus, 2 Timothy written shortly before Paul's death. Assuming Paul was released from prison in A.D. 61-62 (Acts 28:30-31), and then allowing for his travels, 1 Timothy was likely written in A.D. 64-66, probably from Greece.

Emphasis

The purpose of 1 Timothy is described in 1 Timothy 3:14-15: if I am delayed in coming to you I want you to know how to conduct yourself in the house of God. Therefore, Paul's emphasis is on instructing Timothy on proper behavior in the church, warning him about apostasy, providing instructions for specific groups of believers, and warning him about false teachers and their greed.

Outline

- Greeting, and salutation(1:1-2)
- Paul's charge to Timothy (1:3-20)
- Instructions for worship in the church (2:1-15)

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- Qualifications for church leaders (3:1-13)
 - Instructions regarding conduct in the church (3:14-16)
 - Warnings of apostasy in the church (4:1-16)
 - Instructions for specific groups of believers (5:1-6:2)
 - Warnings about false teachers and greed (6:3-10)
 - Concluding charge to Timothy (6:11-21)

What I Noticed Today (1 Timothy 1-6)

1 Timothy 1

In verses 1-2 Paul opens the letter in his usual fashion: identifying himself (as an apostle by the command of God and Christ), his audience (Timothy), and a greeting (grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ).

In verses 3-11 Paul issues Timothy instructions regarding false teachers:

- Paul urges Timothy to stay in Ephesus to teach against different doctrines and to convince people not to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies.
- These people promote speculation rather than God's plan of salvation by faith.
- The goal of our instruction is 1) love that comes from a pure heart, 2) a good conscience, and 3) a sincere faith.
- Some deviate from this to teach the Law, but they didn't even know what they were talking about.
- We know the Law is good if it is used correctly. We know the Law is not for the righteous person but for the lawless and rebellious, ungodly and sinful, unholy and irreverent. The law is for those who kill their mothers and fathers, murders, sexually immoral, homosexuals, kidnappers, liars, perjurers, and for whatever else is against the sound teaching of the Gospel of God.

Note: The first three pairs starting in verse 9 correspond to the Ten Commandments dealing with offenses against God. Paul then lists 5 five violations of the second table of the Ten Commandments (fifth through the ninth commandments). Only the tenth commandment (thou shall not covet) is not included.

In verses 12-17 Paul provides his own testimony.

- Paul gives thanks to God for strengthening him and entrusting him with this ministry; a former blasphemer, persecutor, and arrogant man.
- But the Lord's grace, faith, and love overflowed into his life.
- Christ came into the world to save sinners and I (Paul) am the worst of them. But I received mercy so that Christ might demonstrate his patience as an example to others who might believe in eternal life.
- Paul concludes with a doxology: To the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God be honor and glory forever.

In verses 18-20 Returning to his discussion (from verse 11) Paul continued with instruction to Timothy.

- This instruction (command) about false teachers is in alignment with the prophecies previously made about you.

Note: This exhortation regarding other's prophecy about Timothy reinforces Timothy's divine call to this ministry.

- You will engage in spiritual warfare having faith and a good conscience.
- Some have rejected these (faith and good conscience) and shipwrecked their faith.
- Hymenaeus and Alexander are among them and I have delivered them over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

Note: The phrase "shipwrecked their faith" refers to someone who had professed faith but now rejected it, showing they were never truly converted.

1 Timothy 2

Having dealt with the issue of false teachers, Paul turns his attention to giving Timothy instructions regarding church life.

In verses 1-7 Paul instructs Timothy to have all kinds of prayer (petitions, prayer, intercessions, and thanksgiving) for everyone, including kings and leaders.

- So that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life.
- It pleases God because He wants everyone to come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved.
- There is one God and one mediator between God and man. Jesus gave Himself as a ransom for all.

In verses 8-15 Paul gives Timothy instructions for men and women:


- Men should pray with holy hands lifted up, without anger or argument.

Note: Lifting up hands was a common posture for prayer in the Old Testament, but this command is more about having the right heart attitude when leading prayer. Paul is saying men who lead public prayer should have a holy life (holy hands), not displaying anger with a brother, and without doubting (have faith).

- Women should dress modestly, not wearing external adornment, but be adorned by their good works.

Note: Paul's specific admonition was to differentiate women who followed Christ from temple prostitutes in Ephesus who wore their hair braided, pearls, gold jewelry, and expensive clothes all for appearance sake.

- A woman should learn in silence in full submission and not teach or have authority over men.



Note: At this time, women had very little access to education, were less likely to be literate, and had little training in the law. With the issue of false teachers abounding Paul's admonition was intended to keep order in the church service, and to keep the teaching pure.

1 Timothy 3

In verses 1-7 Paul now turns his attention to qualifications for the office of overseer in church leadership:

- It is honorable to aspire to church leadership, because it is a noble task.
- An overseer (also translated “bishop”) must be:
 - Above reproach,
 - A husband of one wife (a prohibition against polygyny),
 - Self-controlled,
 - Sensible,
 - Respectable,
 - Hospitable,
 - An Able teacher,
 - Not addicted to wine,
 - Not a bully, but gentle,
 - Not Quarrelsome,
 - Not greedy,
 - One who manages his family well,
 - Not a recent convert,
 - Have a good reputation with outsiders.

In verses 8-13 Paul describes the qualifications for someone seeking the office of deacon in church leadership:

- Worthy of respect,
- Not hypocritical,
- Not heavy drinkers of wine,
- Not greedy,
- Hold fast to the Gospel in faith,
- Tested first to insure they are blameless (not sinless, but having no accusations against them),
- Wives must be worthy of respect, not slanderers, self-controlled, and

faithful,

- Husbands of one wife,
- Manage their children and households properly.
- Those who serve in the position of deacon will acquire a good standing for themselves, and a great boldness in the faith.

1 Timothy 3:14-4:16

Paul issues instructions for guarding the truth in the church.

In verses 14-16 Paul says if he is delayed in coming to Timothy, Timothy was to pass these instructions (what he had written previously and what was to follow) along to the pastor of the church in Ephesus:

- God's household is the church.
- The church of the living God is where God's presence is felt.
- The pillar and foundation of truth means the church has been given the responsibility to protect and promote the Gospel.
- When Paul refers to the mystery, he is referring to the Gospel.

1 Timothy 4


In verses 1-5 Paul issues instructions regarding demonic influence in the church.

- In the later times some will depart from the faith listening to deceitful spirits, and the teaching of demons.
- They forbid marriage, and demand abstinence from certain foods.
- But those who know God can know they do not have to reject certain things if received with thanksgiving. It was all made holy (sanctified) by the Word of God.

In verses 6-10 Paul exhorts Timothy to tell these things to other leaders, but have nothing to do with irreverent myths. Instead, train yourself for Godliness. We labor and strive for this (Godliness) because we have put our hope in God, who is savior of everyone who believes.

In verses 11-16 Paul exhorted Timothy again, this time with a command to teach these things.

- Let no one despise your youth.
- Be an example to believers in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.
- Give your attention to public reading, exhortation, and teaching.
- Do not neglect your gift given through prophecy, and ordained by the laying on of hands by the elders.

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- Be diligent in these things so your progress is evident to others.
 - Pay close attention to your life and teaching and in so doing you will save yourself and others.

Note: Timothy may have been lacking in confidence so Paul's exhortations are designed to build him up and confirm in him the God-given responsibility he had to present and promote the Gospel. Paul's reference to "save yourself" is not a "works" driven salvation, but a reference to the important responsibility of a Christian leader to live out their lives in faith as an example to others.

1 Timothy 5:1-6:10

Paul's focus now turns to instructions for Timothy regarding various groups in the church.

1 Timothy 5

In verses 1-2 Paul tells Timothy not to rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father. Treat younger men as brothers. Treat women as mothers. Treat younger women as sisters. Everyone should be treated with the respect they are due.

In verses 3-16 Paul tackles the issue of support for women, specifically widows in the congregation:

- Support widows who are truly widows.
- But if they have children or grandchildren, the children should repay their parents. For this pleases God.
- The real widow puts her hope in God, praying day and night.
- Other widows who are self-indulgent are dead even while they live.
- Anyone who does not provide for his own household has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever (since many unbelievers even know they should care for their households).
- A widow who is placed on the support list should be at least 60 years old, the wife of one husband, and well known for her good works (raising children, showing hospitality, caring for the saints, helping the afflicted).
- A young widow should not be enrolled on the support list because their desire to remarry may cause them to fall away from their faith. They may also learn to be idle, become gossips, and busybodies.
- Therefore, Paul says, younger women should marry, have children, and manage their households, and give the enemy no opportunity to slander the faith.

Note: The "enemy" Paul refers to may be those who want to tear down other believers, or he may be referring to Satan himself.

- If any believing woman has widows in their family they should help them so they will not become a burden on the church, and the church will be able to help those truly in need.

In verses 17-25 Paul issues instructions regarding honoring elders.

- Elders who are good leaders should receive an ample honorarium, especially those good at teaching and preaching (Deuteronomy 25:4), because the worker is worthy of his wages.
- Don't accept an accusation against an elder unless it is supported by two or three witnesses.
- Publically rebuke those who sin so other will be afraid to sin.
- Paul issues a very strong command, charging Timothy before God and Jesus, and the angels to do these things without prejudice or favoritism.
- Paul continues with his exhortations regarding elders:
- Don't be too quick to appoint someone as an elder.
- Keep yourself pure, don't share in the sins of others.
- Use a little wine for your stomach ailments and frequent illnesses.

Note: Timothy tended toward a sceticism, complete abstinence and this contributed to some of his medical problems. Paul is suggesting the use of a little wine for medicinal purposes (also remember the wine consumed in these days was watered down substantially).

- Some people's sins are obvious, other's sins surface later. Good works are obvious, and those that are not obvious cannot be hidden.

Note: It seems that verses 24-25 relate back to verse 22, speaking to the selection of elders.

1 Timothy 6

In verses 1-2 Paul issues instructions directed to slaves:

- Slaves must respect their masters so that God's name and His teaching will not be blasphemed.
- Those slaves who have believing masters should not be disrespectful to them because they are brothers, but be even better in their service to them.

Paul exhorts Timothy once again to teach the congregation these things.

In verses 3-10 Paul issues instructions regarding false doctrine and greed:

- If anyone does not agree with our sound teaching or teaches another doctrine, he is conceited, understands nothing, and is only interested in disputes and arguments over words.
- The result of their false teaching is envy, quarreling, slander, evil

suspicions, and constant disagreement among people who are deprived of the truth, and who think godliness is a way to material gain.

- Godliness is great gain, by itself.
- Those who want to be rich fall into the temptation for foolish and harmful desires that cause ruin and destruction.
- For the love of money is the root of all evil and craving it has caused some to fall away from the faith.

Note: Verses 9-10 are not a condemnation of those who are wealthy, or even of wanting to be wealthy. It is the desire to be rich for the sake of being rich, for the love of money, that is the issue.

In verses 11-16 Paul issues his final instructions to Timothy:

- Run from these things (sin, ungodliness) and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.
- Fight for faith, and take hold of the eternal life that you were called to.
- Paul's strongest charge to Timothy is in verse 13: I charge you to keep the command without fault or failure until the Lord returns.

God will bring this about (the return of Christ) in His own time.

Note: Early in Paul's ministry his writing reflected a view that Christ might return at any time. Now he seems to be taking a longer view, realizing he does not know when the Lord will return, and that Christ's return will occur on God's perfect timing.

In verses 17-19 Paul provides instructions to Timothy directed to the rich:


- Tell the rich to put their trust in God, not in their riches.
- Instruct them to do what is good, to do good works, and to be generous, and thus store up for themselves treasures in heaven.

In verses 20-21 Paul offers his final exhortation to Timothy to:

- Guard what has been entrusted to you,
- Avoid irreverent, empty speech, and false teachings that cause some to wander away from the faith.

Some final thoughts for consideration:

- *So many of the issues Paul addresses with Timothy regarding the church in Ephesus are still with us today!*
- *False teachers, who teach a different Gospel and cause believers to fall away.*
- *The importance of caring for those who truly need our help, but at the same time insist that those who can care for themselves do so.*
- *It is important for the body of Christ to pray for our leaders.*

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- *It is important for the health of our churches and the believers to select and appoint leaders (elders, deacons) who are truly worthy of the responsibility.*
 - *It is important to treat every member of the body with the respect due them.*