

1 Timothy: Overview

- "... I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." – *1 Timothy 3:14-15*

1 Timothy: Introduction

- The city of Lystra gave Paul both a high point and a low point in his ministry.
- On the low end, he was stoned by an irate mob, dragged out of the city and left for dead.
- On the high end, it was there that he met Timothy, who became like a son to him, a faithful friend and assistant in his work.

- What Acts tells us about Timothy:

Acts 16:1-3(NKJV) Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, *the* son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father *was* Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took *him* and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.

- What we learn about him elsewhere:

2 Timothy 1:5(NKJV) when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

2 Timothy 3:15(NKJV) and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

- What Paul said about Timothy to others:

Philippians 2:19-23(NKJV) But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. But you know his proven character, that as a son with *his* father he served with me in the gospel. Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me.

What Adam Clarke (1760 – 1832) the old Methodist said about Timothy:

- *"It is likely that Timothy was the only child; and it appears that he had been brought up in the fear of God, and carefully instructed in the Jewish religion by means of the Holy Scriptures."*
- *"It appears, also, that this young man drank into the apostle's spirit, became a thorough convert to the Christian faith, and that a very tender intimacy subsisted between St. Paul and him."*
- *"When the apostle came from Antioch, in Syria, the second time to Lystra, he found Timothy a member of the Church, and so highly reputed and warmly recommended by the Church in that place, that St. Paul took him to be his companion in his travels."*

1 Timothy: Introduction

- Of Paul's thirteen New Testament letters, four were to individuals.
- Three of those are known as the *Pastoral Epistles*, because they were written to pastors.
- Two of those were to Timothy.
- This one, 1 Timothy, is obviously the first.

- Here we have God's word on what it takes to do ministry according to God's will. We'll see, among other things:
 - What things to emphasize.
 - What things to avoid.
 - The qualifications for church leaders.
- It's interesting to compare God's ideas for the church to our own.

1 Timothy: Making Disciples

- One obvious lesson we learn from this letter concerns Paul's relationship to Timothy as a mentor.
- First Timothy was written some 15 years after Paul recruited him to be part of his missionary team back in Acts 16.
- They stayed connected for life.

1 Timothy: A Study of the Letter

- Reading through the letter should take no more than 20 minutes. As we read consider:
 - The topics Paul brings up.
 - What he says about those topics.
 - How these things might be applied by the church here and now, in our present place and time.

One Possible Outline (W. Wiersbe):

- I. The Church and Its Message Chapter 1
- II. The Church and Its Members Chapters 2-3
- III. The Church and Its Minister Chapter 4
- IV. The Church and Its Ministry Chapters 5-6

I. The Church and Its Message Chapter 1

- A. Teaching sound doctrine 1:1-11
- B. Preaching a glorious Gospel 1:12-17
- C. Defending the faith 1:18-20

II. The Church and Its Members Chapters 2-3

- A. Praying men 2:1-8
- B. Modest women 2:9-15
- C. Dedicated officers 3:1-13
- D. Behaving believers 3:14-16

- III. The Church and Its Minister Chapter 4
 - A. A good minister 4:1-6
 - B. A godly minister 4:7-12
 - C. A growing minister 4:13-16

- IV. The Church and Its Ministry Chapters 5-6
 - A. To older saints 5:1-2
 - B. To widows 5:3-16
 - C. To church leaders 5:17-25
 - D. To servants (slaves) 6:1-2
 - E. To trouble-makers 6:3-5
 - F. To the rich 6:6-19
 - G. To the “educated” 6:20-21

1 Timothy: Key Verses

- Chapter **1:5 & 15**
- Chapter **2:5 & 8**
- Chapter **3:1 & 15**
- Chapter **4:1, 8, 12 & 16**
- Chapter **5:21-22**
- Chapter **6:6 & 12**

1 Timothy: Further Study

- Commentaries to read as we go through the Pastoral Epistles together:
 - Warren Wiersbe; *Be Faithful – 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon*
Colorado Springs, Victor, 2005
(This is the one we use for the Calvary Chapel Bible College Class.)
 - Tom (N.T.) Wright; *Paul for Everyone: The Pastoral Letters: 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus*
Louisville, Westminster John Knox Press, 2004

1 Timothy: In Conclusion

- Finally, contemplate these remarks by the philosopher, pastor, and evangelist, J.P. Moreland:
- “Since the 1960s, we have experienced an evolution in what we expect a local church pastor to be. [Originally] he was expected to be a resident authority on theology and biblical teaching.”
- “Slowly this gave way to a model of the pastor as the CEO of the church, the administrative and organizational leader. Today the ministers we want are Christianized pop therapists who are entertaining to listen to.”
- “In the midst of all this, the church has become primarily a hospital to soothe empty selves instead of a war college to mobilize and train an army of men and women to occupy enemy territory and advance the kingdom until the King returns.”
- “Of course, the church should actually be both hospital and war college and, in fact, much, much more. But ... make no mistake, like it or not, we are in a war for the hearts, minds and destinies of men and women all around us.”
 - J.P. Moreland, *Love God with All Your Mind*, pp. 188-189
- Next Week: Teaching Sound Doctrine 1 Timothy 1:1-11