

# "TO TIMOTHY, MY TRUE CHILD IN THE FAITH..."

PAUL'S LETTERS TO TIMOTHY



## INTRODUCTION

**Written by** Paul to Timothy in Ephesus approximately AD 64. Paul is not writing from prison, but rather he has left for Macedonia and has left Timothy to address a list of tasks for the benefit of the church.

**Purpose:** to set things in order in the church in Ephesus. This included shutting down false teachers, appointing elders and deacons in the church, instructions for personal growth, instructions for order in the worship assembly, the administration of benevolence to widows, the permissibility of financial support for local leaders, moral support of local leaders, and the importance of keeping the faith and doctrine of the church unaltered by false teachers. It is possible and even probable that when Paul says he left Timothy in Ephesus to straighten out some false teachers, that he wasn't just including Ephesus. There is a good chance that the seven churches of Asia were all established by Paul or some of his proxy evangelists sent out from Ephesus. We know, for example, that Paul personally knew the preacher in Colossae (Archippus, Col. 4:17), the church in Laodicea (Col. 4:15,16), and one of Colossae's members (Philemon). It is beyond doubt, for example, that the church in Ephesus already had elders by the time Paul wrote 1 Timothy, because Acts 20 speaks of him calling the Ephesian elders to himself at Miletus for a farewell address. Thus, Paul's instructions to Timothy about appointing elders and deacons would seem almost certainly to apply to elders and deacons in other cities.

**Outline:**

- Warning against false teachers (1:1-11)
- The Lord's grace to Paul (1:12-17)
- The purpose of Paul's instructions (1:18-20)
- Instructions for the church (2:13-16)
- Dealing with false teachers (4:1-16)
- Dealing with different groups (5:1—6:2)
- Miscellaneous matters (6:3-21)

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### 1 Timothy 1

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope,

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### THE FORMAL ADDRESS

- What does the word apostle mean?
- According to \_\_\_\_\_ of God our \_\_\_\_\_ and of Christ Jesus our \_\_\_\_\_
- What does it mean that Jesus is our hope?
- Why is Paul addressing himself to Timothy in such a formal way to someone he considers a son?

<sup>2</sup> To Timothy, my true child in the faith:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup> As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, <sup>4</sup> nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith. <sup>5</sup> But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. <sup>6</sup> For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, <sup>7</sup> wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions.

<sup>8</sup> But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, <sup>9</sup> realizing the fact that law is

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## TIMOTHY'S MISSION

- Why was Timothy left in Ephesus?
  - What is a strange doctrine? (not looking for rocket science here)
  - "...nor to pay attention to \_\_\_\_\_ and endless \_\_\_\_\_..."
    - What were these likely about?
  - Why should these teachers of strange doctrines not pay attention to myths and genealogies?
    - Is there application here for us?
- What should we be paying attention to?
  - v. 4— \_\_\_\_\_ (stewardship) of God, which is by faith
  - v. 5 — \_\_\_\_\_ from a \_\_\_\_\_ heart
  - and a \_\_\_\_\_ conscience
  - and a \_\_\_\_\_ faith
- What happens when men pay attention to the wrong things? (v. 6)
  - What does "fruitless discussion" mean?
  - What seems to be the aim of men who were paying attention to myths, genealogies, speculation and fruitless discussion? (v. 7)
    - they do not \_\_\_\_\_ either what they are \_\_\_\_\_ or the \_\_\_\_\_ about which they make \_\_\_\_\_ assertions.
- Wanting to be teachers of the \_\_\_\_\_
  - They were apparently not using it \_\_\_\_\_
    - What does this mean?

not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers <sup>10</sup> and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching, <sup>11</sup> according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.

<sup>12</sup> I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, <sup>13</sup> even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the

- What is the lawful way to use it in the NT?
  - for those who are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,
  - for the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,
  - for the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,
  - for those who kill their \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_,
  - for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ men and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,
  - and whatever else is contrary to \_\_\_\_\_ according to the glorious \_\_\_\_\_ of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.

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#### THE WORST OF SINNERS

- What do you think made Paul break out into this paean of praise and gratitude?
  - Paul had been \_\_\_\_\_ with this \_\_\_\_\_ Gospel.
  - Christ had empowered (what does this mean?) him and considered Paul \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Why does Paul see this as so unbelievable?
    - I was formerly a \_\_\_\_\_ (what is this?)
    - and a \_\_\_\_\_ (what did he do?)
    - and a \_\_\_\_\_ (what did he do here?)
  - Why was he shown mercy?
    - Do people still do this today?

world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. <sup>16</sup> Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>18</sup> This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, <sup>19</sup> keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. <sup>20</sup> Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.

- What should this say to us in our sharing the Gospel? (Think about Ananias in Damascus)
- But the grace of our Lord was more than \_\_\_\_\_.
  - How was that super-abundant grace obtained?
- What had Paul concluded about the Lord's seeking him out, saving him, and putting him into service of spreading the glorious Gospel?
  - Christ Jesus came into the world to \_\_\_\_\_ sinners, among whom I am \_\_\_\_\_ of all.
  - so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect \_\_\_\_\_ as an \_\_\_\_\_ for those who would \_\_\_\_\_ in Him for eternal life
- How is God described here?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the point of praise like this?

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#### A CHARGE TO TIMOTHY

- What does it mean to...
  - fight the good fight
  - keep faith
  - keep a good conscience
  - shipwreck your faith
  - to hand someone over to Satan
    - What would be the purpose of this?