

GOD'S AMAZING BOOK

THROUGH THE BIBLE, BOOK BY BOOK

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THE RIGHT KIND OF CHURCH

A Quick Look at the First Pastoral Letter to Timothy

Fast Facts on 1Timothy

Written by? Apostle Paul

Written to whom?

Timothy (in Ephesus)

Written when? A.D. 64

Written why? To

encourage Timothy, a young church leader.

These [pastoral] epistles are the only part of the New Testament which deals with church problems from an administrative rather than a theological viewpoint. - W. E. Vine

Timothy was Paul's apprentice, becoming the first Christian leader we see in the Bible, after those who were personal witnesses of Jesus Christ: His death, burial and resurrection. Timothy was a young minister, and faced a lot of challenges from the church and the world around him. Paul sent this letter to him to help him and encourage him. The instructions found in this letter have helped millions throughout church history. Here is a brief outline of what is covered in this great book:

Churches Should Have The Right Kind of...

...Teaching (1 Timothy 1:1-20)

Paul wanted Timothy to be sure the right kind of teaching was in his ministry. This meant that Timothy had to do two things: 1) Get wrong teaching out (1:1-11); 2) Keep right doctrine in (1:12-20)

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.

...Worship (1 Timothy 2:1-15)

Paul wanted Timothy to be sure the right atmosphere was created in public worship services. No worship service should be without these two things: 1) Prayer (2:1-8); 2) Order (2:9-15)

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.

...Leadership (1 Timothy 3:1-16)

Paul wanted Timothy to know that there are to be standards in the leadership of the Church. Not just anyone should be able to lead God's family. Though every Christian should make these standards their personal goal, these requirements are essential for the main offices of the Church:

- 1) Pastors and Elders (3:1-7)
- 2) Deacons (3:8-13)

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.

REAL LIFE STORY - More recently, the Christian walk of Will Houghton, a preacher who became the president of Moody Bible Institute during the 1940s, played a large role in the conversion of an agnostic who was contemplating suicide. The skeptic was desperate, but he decided that if he could find a minister who lived his faith he would listen to him. So he hired a private detective to watch Houghton. When the investigator's report came back, it revealed that this preacher's life was above reproach; he was for real. The agnostic went to Houghton's church, accepted Christ, and later sent his daughter to Moody Bible Institute. - H.V.L. (Our Daily Bread, September 29)

...Discipline (1 Timothy 4:1-16)

Paul wanted Timothy to know that being God's man is much more important than doing God's work. Discipline is essential. The main verse from this passage is 1 Timothy 4:7, which says, "***Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.***" Paul tells Timothy to:

- 1) Stay Sharp against Heresy (4:1-5)
- 2) Stay Disciplined Spiritually (4:6-8)
- 3) Stay Strong when Suffering (4:9-10)
- 4) Stay Close to the Lord Daily (4:11-16)

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!

...Responsibilities (1 Timothy 5:1-6:2)

Paul wanted Timothy to know that the Church is to be a hospital for sinners, not a hotel for saints. Love must be our number one attribute for us to look most like Christ to a dying world. Paul specifically wanted Timothy to remember the Church's responsibility to look out for: 1) Christians in sin (5:1-2); 2) Widows (5:3-16); 3) Elders (5:17-25); 4) Slaves (6:1-2)

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 Christ-like attitude and exhibits genuine love to nonbelievers.

...Motivations (1 Timothy 6:3-21)

Paul knew that there would be those who would want to be a church leader for various reasons. Leaders should not be in the Church for what they can get out of it, but what they can give into it. Paul shows why leaders are in the Church:

- 1) Not because they are paid (6:3-10)
- 2) But because they are called (6:11-16)
- 3) And because of the Good News (6:20-21)

FIRST TIMOTHY

Greeting (1:1-2)	Personal Encouragement and Exhortation <u>Timothy's task</u> <u>Paul's testimony</u> <u>Gospel's trustworthiness</u> CHAPTER 1	The Ministry Men and women (2) (Prayer and submission) Elders and deacons (3) (Qualifications for leadership) CHAPTERS 2-3	The Minister Seeing the importance of (4): <u>Faithful teaching</u> <u>True godliness</u> <u>Sound doctrine</u> <u>Perseverance</u> Paying attention to (5): <u>Various age groups</u> <u>Elders</u> <u>Widows</u> <u>Wisdom</u> Developing a new perspective toward (6): <u>Masters and slaves</u> <u>Internals and externals</u> <u>Rich and poor</u> <u>Eternal vs. temporal</u> CHAPTERS 4-6	Conclusion (6:21)
Emphasis	The work of ministry		The one who ministers	
Command	Be true!	Be wise!	Be strong and faithful!	
Theme	Leadership of the church, the household of God			
Key Verses	3:14-15			
Christ in 1 Timothy	Jesus is the Mediator between God and people, the ransom for all, who came in the flesh and was taken up in glory (2:5-6; 3:16).			

Source: Charles Swindoll

FASCINATING FACT:

Out of the city of Lystra came perhaps the Apostle Paul's most difficult circumstance and his most delightful companion. On Paul's first missionary journey through Lystra, he was stoned by an angry mob, dragged out of the city, and left for dead. However, a young man named Timothy came to faith as a result of Paul's preaching. On Paul's second missionary journey through Lystra, Timothy became Paul's missionary companion. Timothy went on to become like a son to Paul, and he was a constant and faithful companion to the great apostle.

THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT 1 Timothy

1. No one is ever so far gone that God cannot pour out his grace and mercy on that person (1:12-14).
2. If you want to serve as a spiritual leader, you are going to be held to some pretty high standards (3:13).
3. Even though Timothy was young and shy, Paul sent him on several important missions.
4. Paul wrote this letter near the end of his life.
5. Timothy had a Jewish mother and a Greek father.

WIDOWS: Because there were no pensions, no social security, no life insurance, and few honorable jobs for women, widows were usually unable to support themselves. The responsibility for caring for the helpless naturally falls first on their families, the people whose lives are most closely linked with theirs. Paul stresses the importance of families caring for the needs of widows, and not leaving it for the church — so the church can care for those widows who have no families. A widow who had no children or other family members to support her was doomed to poverty. From the beginning, the church took care of its widows, who in turn gave valuable service to the church.

(Life Application New Testament Commentary, pg. 947)