

1 Timothy 1:1-17

Day 1

Greetings. Read Timothy 1:1-2

FYI: "This is the first of the Pastoral Epistles that instruct church leaders and members how to do church God's way... Having left Timothy behind in Ephesus to grow what Paul had himself established, Paul explained to him how the church should work. (1 Timothy 3:15)...Paul spends a lot of time explaining how to grow and develop church leadership, how leaders are to function, and what their responsibilities entail. The letter also points out that the quality of leaders affects the quality of the members."
- Tony Evans Study Bible (1431)

"The Bible's silence on the ultimate fate of Paul has engendered a great deal of debate in modern times. The book of Acts ends with Paul sitting in a Roman prison awaiting his hearing before the Roman emperor, a privilege of appeal that all Roman citizens possessed. However, the writing of the Pastoral Epistles clearly dates to a time after the events of Acts. So where was Paul when he wrote 1 Timothy? Paul had expected the Romans to release him from prison, something that likely happened near the end of AD 62 (Philippians 2:24). His release allowed him the opportunity to travel to Ephesus and eventually place Timothy in ministry at that church. Paul then went on to preach in Macedonia, where he heard reports of Timothy's work at Ephesus that prompted him to write 1 Timothy."

- Charles Swindoll <https://insight.org/resources/bible/the-pauline-epistles/first-timothy>

1. List the phrases Paul used to describe his authority. 1:1 (See Acts 26:12-18) Why would this be important for those who read this letter?

- What were the qualifications for being an apostle? Acts 1:21,22
How did Paul qualify? 1 Corinthians 15:8
- Who had affirmed Paul's apostleship? Acts 21:17-20; Galatians 2:1-2,6-9

Digging Deeper

What was missing from the introduction to this letter? See 1 Thessalonians 1:2,3; Romans 1:8

FYI: Apostle Strong's NT: 652 *apostolos* means one sent forth from by another, often with a special commission to represent another and to accomplish his work...The Biblical apostles had special authority and power given by God and when they died that was the end of the special office of an apostle."

- https://www.preceptaustin.org/1_timothy_11-2_commentary

"When Paul uses in his salutation the designation 'an apostle' it is because his authority is in question or because he has an official word for the recipients of the letter. In his personal letters such as those to the Philippians and Philemon, Paul simply called himself a 'servant' or a 'prisoner.' The presence of his apostolic title here is an indication that although this letter is addressed to a friend (Timothy) it really is an official communique designed for the whole church."

- Colman and Peace (14)

"Once the last of the apostles died, the title and authority of apostleship ended. Before the New Testament Scriptures had been collected and vetted by the churches, however, one depended on the recommendation of a trusted source before receiving anyone's teaching as authentic. Just as God had authorized Paul's ministry, so Timothy stood among the Ephesians with the same authority to teach and to lead."

- Charles Swindoll (21,22)

2. What kind of "hope" do we have? 1:1 (See 2 Thessalonians 2:16)

FYI: "Our 'hope' is not in this world; it is Christ, not some vague wish but a 'confident expectation,' which is the meaning of the Greek word. It is a 'blessed hope' (Titus 2:13), a living hope (I Peter 1:3), a saving hope (Romans 8:24), a glorious hope (Colossians 1:27), a joyful hope (Romans 5:2), a reasonable hope (I Peter 3:15), a purifying hope (I John 3:3), a stabilizing hope (Hebrews 6:19), and an everlasting hope (II Thessalonians 2:16)."

- The Defender's Study Bible

3. How did Paul regard Timothy? 1:2

- Underline other phrases Paul used to describe Timothy.
 - 1 Thessalonians 3:2-3 We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, so that no one would be unsettled by these trials...
 - 1 Corinthians 4:17 For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

4. How did Paul call Timothy into the ministry? Acts 16:1-4 (*Acts 14:8-23 gives an account of Paul's missionary work in Lystra where Timothy may have first heard him.*)

5. What was Timothy's spiritual background? 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:10-15

6. Underline how Paul regarded Timothy's work in the ministry

- 1 Corinthians 16:10 When Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am.
- Philippians 2:19-22 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.

FYI: "*Timothy* was Paul's stalwart young disciple, to whom he gave many responsibilities. Paul first met him at Lystra, probably while on his first missionary journey. Paul invited him to join with him in his ministry on his second missionary journey when he again came to Lystra (Acts 16:1-3), the same city where he had once been stoned and left for dead (Acts 14:1,19)...

Timothy served Paul in numerous ways throughout Paul's travels. He was with Paul and Silas when Paul wrote his two letters to the Thessalonians...He was also with Paul in Macedonia when II Corinthians was written and in Corinth when Romans was written (Romans 16:21).

However, when Paul wrote to Timothy himself, Timothy was apparently serving in Ephesus (I Timothy 1:3), while Paul had gone back into Macedonia. There is no indication of this particular situation in the narrative of Acts...Since Acts closes at the point of Paul's incarceration in Rome awaiting his appeal (Acts 28:30), it is almost certain that Paul was later released and was able to continue his missionary ministries for another few years. It was during that time, apparently, that Paul sent Timothy to Ephesus to lead the important church there for a time.

- The Defender's Study Bible notes

7. To whom was this letter addressed? What aspects of the gospel did Paul give in 1:2?
What would each of those blessings mean to a minister in a troubled situation?

FYI: "Paul frequently imparted 'grace' and 'peace' in his greeting, but to Timothy the apostle wished for '*mercy*' (cf. 2 Tim. 1:2), a highly emotive word in Greek and the most common translation of the Hebrews term *chesed*, 'gracious, faithful love.' Perhaps Paul recognized that Timothy's tender disposition would cause him to need the Lord's empathy while serving in the tumult of Ephesus."

- Charles Swindoll (22)

"This letter was written from Paul to Timothy, the young pastor of a struggling church. In it Paul explained to Timothy how the gospel forms who we are and what we do as the church...(1 Timothy 3:15). When you ask the question, What is the church supposed to look like? 1 Timothy provides one of the clearest answers in all of the Bible."

- Platt et al. (13)

Applying the Word: *Have you had a special connection with someone who has served as a spiritual mentor in your life or with whom you served as a mentor? How does that relationship help you?*

Day 2

False Teachers. Read Timothy 1:3-6

8. What does Paul's first instruction to Timothy indicate about problems he was facing? 1:3

FYI: Remain Strong's NT:4357 *prosmeno*; to stay further, i.e. remain in a place...to adhere to, persevere in

False/strange/other doctrines NT:2085 *heterodidaskaleo*; to instruct differently

"Timothy had seen his share of hardship, having often traveled with Paul, and he had taken on tough assignments before; so the trouble in Ephesus must have been extraordinary. Nevertheless, Paul urges the embattled pastor to stay at his task."
- Charles Swindoll (24)

"Ephesus was a city filled with paganism and rampant immorality and idolatry, and because of these cultural pressures, Paul's first concern was to tell Timothy that he must keep people from teaching false doctrine. The summons is clear: Address anything and everything that pulls people away from the gospel. If we lose the gospel, we lose everything."
- Platt et al. (13)

9. What were false teachers adding to their teaching? 1:4a What appeal can false teaching have? 2 Timothy 4:3

FYI: "Ephesus had long been the place where teachers established schools and attracted students to their newly invented philosophical systems...Ancient cultures gave the greatest credence to that which was old...**Myths** are stories that recount supposedly ancient events for the purpose of explain how or why people believe a certain thing. People use **genealogies** to link themselves to something everyone respects in order to establish credibility or legitimacy...It appears the Ephesians sought to link Christian teaching to myths and geologies to give them an air of authority rather than to stand confidently on God's Word alone."
- Charles Swindoll (24)

10. What did these false teachings produce? 1:4b (Cross-ref. 6:4,5; Compare Titus 3:9)

- What **didn't** they produce? 1:4c (See 1 Thessalonians 1:3)

FYI: "useless or controversial speculations/disputes/questions" Strong's NT:2214 *zetesis*; a searching (properly, the act), i.e. a dispute or its theme:

"Ancient Jewish writings have been discovered which dig into the most complex genealogies, connecting them with wild speculations about spiritual mysteries."
- David Guzik

"Some Jewish scholars took the family trees in the Old Testament and devoted great energy to constructing 'biographies' for each character. These...were, of course, largely imaginary (i.e. 'myths')...The problem was that all this speculation generated strife within the body, not 'God's work. (See also 1:6 and 6:3-5)"
- Coleman and Peace (15)

11. Instead of controversy, what is the goal of ministry? 1:5

- What produces love? 1:5b *Since we all sin (1 John 1:8), how can we ever claim to have a pure heart and a good conscience? See 1 Cor. 6:11*

FYI: "The goal of biblical instruction is love – love for God (to love God is to passionately pursue His glory and submit to His will) and love for neighbor (to love people is the decision to compassionately, righteously, and responsibly seek the well-being of others)." The Tony Evans Study Bible (14232)

Digging Deeper

What did Jesus say about love? John 13:34,35

What did John say about love? 1 John 4:7,8

12. To what did false teaching lead? 1:6 (Compare Titus 1:10)

FYI: *Strayed/wandered away/departed* v Strong's NT:795 *astocheo*; to miss the mark, i.e. (figuratively) deviate from truth KJV - err, swerve.

Meaningless, idle talk/fruitless, empty discussion Strong's NT:3150 *mataiologia*; random talk, i.e. babble

13. What were these false teachers aspiring to be? 1:7a *What does that say about their association or position within the body of believers?*

- Why weren't they qualified? 1:7b (Cross-ref. 6:4) What characterized their talk? 1:7c

FYI: "There is a dangerous combination here: arrogance and ignorance.' (Ryken) Moreover, as a result of their teaching, they were producing confusion and deception among those who hear." - Platt et al. (14)

14. Underline the characteristics of false **teachers** and their **teaching**.

- Matthew 7:15-16a "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits...."
- Romans 16:17,18 Now I urge you, brothers *and sisters*, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. ¹⁸ For such people are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting. NAS
- 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. NIV
- Jude 4 For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. NIV
- 2 Peter 2:1-2 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them-bringing swift destruction on themselves. ² Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.
- Colossians 2:4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.

- Romans 16:18 For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.
- Ephesians 4:14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. NIV
- 1 Timothy 6:4,5 They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. NIV
- 2 Tim. 2:16 But avoid worldly *and* empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness NAS
- Titus 1:13,14 Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, 14 not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth. NKJ
- Hebrews 13:9 Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings NAS
- 2 Peter 2:3 In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping. NIV

15. What often motivated false teachers? 2 Corinthians 2:17

16. Read Acts 19:8,9,19. How might the beginnings of the church in Ephesus explain some of the problems they were having?

- Read Acts 20:29-30 What did Paul realize would happen to the Ephesian church after he left?

Applying the Word: What kinds of things do you see pulling people away from the true gospel

Day 3

False Teachers and the Law. Read Timothy 1:7-11

17. What check did Paul put on the use of the law? 1:8 What was he implying about the false teachers' use of the law?

FYI: "Paul emphasizes that he is not disparaging the law but those who misunderstand it and use it legalistically...The law shows us how sinful we are (Rom 7:7-13), how incapable we are of keeping it. The law was intended to point us to our need for a Savior (see Gal. 3:21-26). It can't make us righteous. Believers satisfy the demands of the law as they walk in the Spirit (Rom. 8:1-13; Gal. 5:16-18). The law is for those who have not yet become convinced of their sin."
- The Tony Evans Study Bible (1432)

"The 'empty speculations' (vs. 4) and 'fruitless discussion' (v. 6) ultimately lead to deception because people begin to think there are additional rules beyond God's law, and by doing them they can be saved. That's a serious deception."
- Pratt et al. (14)

- 18]. What kind of laws were the false teachers imposing on people? 1 Tim. 4:3 (See also Colossians 2:16-23; Galatians 5:1-4)

FYI: "The purpose of the law is found in its inward work upon the heart (vs. 5), not in mere outward observance. Without this understanding, it is easy to become shallow legalists who are only concerned with outward performance and appearance...If spending time in God's word does not produce **love from a pure heart**, a **good conscience**, or **sincere faith** in us, something is wrong. Legalism may make us twist God's word, so that instead of showing **love** we are harsh and judgmental; instead of having a **good conscience** we always feel condemned knowing we don't measure up; and instead of **sincere faith** we practically trust in our own ability to please God."
- David Guzik

19. What extreme positions did Paul often face with people misusing the law?

- Romans 6:15

- *What is the correct response to license (antinomianism) ? Romans 6:15-18*

- Acts 15:1,5; Colossians 2:20-23

- *What is the answer to "legalism"? Galatians 5:1,6,13-16; Ephesians 2:8,9*

FYI: "Many people will condemn anyone with standards — especially higher standards — as being a **legalist**. Having standards and keeping them does not make us legalists and obedience doesn't make us legalists. We are legalists when we think what we do is what makes us right before God."
- David Guzik

Articles:

"What is Antinomianism" <https://www.gotquestions.org/antinomianism.html>

"What does the Bible say about legalism" <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-Christian-legalism.html>



- 20]. For whom was the law made? 1:9-10 .

FYI: Not made for the righteous "The idea isn't that the law has *nothing* to say to the **righteous person**, but that it especially speaks to the ungodly."
- David Guzik

But for those who are lawless and rebels "God's law helps us to recognize the boundaries between good and evil so we might avoid sin...Paul pointed to specific sins in verse 9-10 and these sins seem to correlate with the ways we are prone to break the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:1-17; Deut. 5:6-21). The law helps identify and restrain these sins in our lives. (See Romans 7:7)...However, because of our sin...it may restrain us temporarily, but eventually we sin, all of us...When we sin, the law becomes a testimony against us, showing us how we have disobeyed...The law makes our rebellion apparent, and this realization is an essential part of our salvation."
- Pratt et al. (15,16)

Slave traders/kidnappers/men stealers "The eighth commandment forbids stealing, which was interpreted to include stealing human beings."
- David Guzik

21. What are all these sins “contrary to”? 1:10b-11 (See Titus 1:9)

22. What does a “proper” use of the law lead one to conclude? Romans 3:19-21

- What was the job of the law before faith? Galatians 3:23-25
- What controls us now? Galatians 5:13-18

FYI: “Before we come to Christ, we stand before the law condemned by God. We have not kept His law; in fact, we cannot keep His law (Rom. 8:8). The law opens our eyes to the fact that we are guilty before God. But then we look to Christ, who has kept the law of God perfectly, and we see that He is righteous before God. In response we cry out to God, ‘I need Him!’ And that’s how we are saved. That’s the gospel. Christ the *law-keeper*, has paid the penalty for *lawbreakers*. The law doesn’t save us; the law leads us to Christ, and *He* saves us... ‘What is the purpose of the purpose of this humbling, bruising and beating down? It serves to bring us into grace’ (Luther) We find this grace in the gospel of Christ.”
- Platt et al. (16)

23. What does Christ dwelling in our hearts accomplish *in* and *through* us? Ephesians 3:16-20

- How does that fulfill the law? Romans 13:9-10

FYI: “Those who have recognized their helplessness and have received God’s free gift of eternal life through faith in His Son now have a different relationship with the law. Believers are no longer ‘under’ the law – that is, subject to its condemnation – but now embrace the law as a means of knowing God and seeking to please Him.” - Swindoll (27)

“God’s law instructs us. Moral law – and to some extent the ceremonial law – reveals His character and shows us how to love God and love our neighbor. Now that we are indwelt by His Spirit, we have the desire and the power to obey what God says (cf. Ezek 36:27). As we **rest** in the righteousness of Christ, **possessed** by the Spirit of Christ, **compelled** by the ongoing grace of Christ, we are **led** from the inside out to walk in God’s will. For the Christians, God’s law is no longer a crushing hammer but a divine guide.”
- Platt et al. (16)

Applying the Word: *Are there any areas of your life where you have an unhealthy focus on rule keeping in order to earn God’s love rather than focusing on Christ and experiencing the power and love of the Holy Spirit in your life?*

Day 4

God’s Work in Paul’s Life. Read Timothy 1:12-17

24. List the three things for which Paul thanked the Lord. 1:12 (Cf. 1:1)

FYI: Faithful “This word might better be translated ‘trustworthy’ thus capturing the play on words that Fee sees here. Paul was ‘**entrusted**’ (v. 11) with the gospel because he was considered ‘**trustworthy**’ (v. 12) even though he had once been ‘**untrusting**’ (he had acted out of ‘unbelief’ v. 13) but God’s grace gave him the ability to ‘**trust**’ (have ‘faith’ v. 14)”
- Colman and Peace (18)

25. Before knowing the Lord, what had Paul’s life been like? 1:13a

26. In spite of these atrocities, why was Paul shown mercy? 1:13b
(Compare Luke 23:34)

Digging Deeper
See some of the things Paul had done to the church. Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-2,13-14; 22:4-5,19-20; 26:9-11; Galatians 1:13

- How was his mind set different than open rejection? Galatians 1:14 *How could Paul be both “zealous for the traditions of his fathers” and a blasphemer?*

27. With what did the Lord fill Paul’s life? 1:14 *What did Paul say about God’s grace in 1 Corinthians 15:9-10?*

FYI: “God’s grace brought ‘faith’ where there had been ‘unbelief’ and ‘love’ where there had been ‘violence.’”
- Coleman and Peace (18)

28. How did God turn Paul’s life around? Acts 9:1-6

- What ministry did He give to Paul? Acts 28:15-18
- How did Paul react to God’s calling? Acts 26:19,20; Galatians 1:15

29. Why did Jesus Christ “come into the world”? 1 Timothy 1:15a

- Why was that so meaningful to Paul personally? 1:15b (See 1 Corinthians 15:9)

FYI: Came into the world “Christ Jesus, the Son of God, didn’t first come into being in Bethlehem. He already existed as...the preexistent, eternal Son of God who was there with the Father and the Spirit before the foundation of the world (John 1:1-3). He committed the ultimate act of condescending grace coming into the world as a baby born in Bethlehem....put on a robe of human flesh and came to us. This is the incarnation. But why did Jesus come? Jesus Christ came to live the life we could not live, to die the death we deserved to die, and to rise in victory over the enemies we could not conquer – sin and death. This is not like the myths and speculations of the false teachers (vs. 4); this is ‘trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance’ (1:15).”
- Platt et al. (18)

30. What was God able to show through Paul’s life? 1:16 *What hope does that give us? What does that say about His unconditional love, His plans for our lives and His power to work in and through us?*

31. What did understanding God’s grace cause Paul to do? 1:17

- List the titles that Paul gave to God and what that title conveys to you.

FYI: “[Paul’s] knowledge of grace surpasses that of others only because he once stood in the greatest need of it. He feels uniquely qualified to proclaim the wonders of God’s mercy, not because he has studied harder, spoken more eloquently, or stood taller than others, but because he has benefited more than any other servant of God – at least in his own mind.”
 - Charles Swindoll (30)

Applying the Word: *How does sharing what “God has done for me” make telling what “God can do for you” more supportive?*

In what ways has God had a transforming power in your life? Take time to thank Him for what He has done.

Video: “1 Timothy - New Testament Overview” – Bible Project (9:16)
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-timothy/>

“1 Timothy Overview **Chart**” by Charles Swindoll (See chart under “Bible Study Aids”)
<https://insight.org/resources/bible/the-pauline-epistles/first-timothy>

