



Overview for 1 Timothy

Purpose: To remind Timothy of his charge to refute false teachings, and to provide him with instructions for the believers at Ephesus.

Author: The Apostle Paul

Time Period Covered: About the same time that Paul wrote his letter to Titus, prior to his second imprisonment.

Date Written: A.D. 63 to 64

History: Timothy was apparently converted as a result of Paul's missionary work in Lystra. His mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, were Jewish believers, and his father was a Greek. Paul's relationship with Timothy was beyond one of simple mentorship; it was a spiritual father-son bond.

Timothy had become one of Paul's closest companions, accompanying the Apostle on at least two of his evangelistic journeys through such places as Phrygia, Galatia, Mysia, Troas, Philippi, Berea, Athens, Thessalonica, Corinth, and Ephesus.

Paul visited Ephesus at the end of his second missionary journey, leaving Aquila and Priscilla in that city to spread the Gospel. On his third missionary journey, Paul stayed in Ephesus for three years to establish the work there. Timothy was later left in Ephesus as Paul continued on to Macedonia and Philippi. His responsibilities included choosing and installing suitable workers in the church, refuting and

warning against heretical teachings, and providing direction and discipline for new believers.

Key People: Paul and Timothy

Setting: This letter is thought to have been written from Mesopotamia or Rome after Paul's first imprisonment. Timothy was laboring in Ephesus at Paul's direction. Paul hoped to visit Timothy soon (see 1 Timothy 3:14-15 and 4:13), but in the meantime, he wrote the younger man to offer practical advice concerning his ministerial responsibilities.

Summary: Paul opened his letter with a salutation to his son in the faith, and then focused on the importance of sound doctrine, warning Timothy about false teachers and urging him to cling to his faith in Christ. In chapter 2, he gave directions concerning church organization and dealt with matters relating to public worship. Paul established the qualifications for church leaders in chapter 3, listing specific criteria for each office. Returning to the theme of false teachers in chapter 4, Paul instructed Timothy regarding how to recognize and respond to those who would undermine the faith. In chapter 5, Paul focused on the matter of relationships, giving practical advice on pastoral care for those in the congregation. He concluded the epistle by exhorting Timothy concerning godliness. Throughout the letter, Paul encouraged Timothy by "charging" him to remain steadfast in the Gospel, and to teach and maintain sound doctrine.

Timeline

Many of these dates are approximate, as reference materials differ slightly.

Jesus crucified; Pentecost; Church begun A.D. 30	Stephen martyred; Paul's conversion 35			Peter's ministry in Asia Minor 47	Jerusalem council 50	PAUL IMPRISONED (CAESAREA) 57-59	PAUL'S HOUSE ARREST 60-62	James (Jesus' brother) martyred 62	Peter & Paul martyred 67/68?	Jude martyred 72					
	PAUL IN CILICIA & SYRIA 35-46			PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS 46-48 50-52 53-57			Paul's trip to Rome 59			Rome destroys Jerusalem 70					
			Holy Spirit falls on Gentiles 41	James (the apostle) martyred; Peter imprisoned 44											
				Galatians; James 49	1 & 2 Thessalonians 51/52	1 & 2 Corinthians 55	Romans 57	St. Mark 58/60	Ephesians; Colossians; Philemon 60	Philippians 61	St. Matthew; St. Luke 61/64	1 Timothy; Titus; 1 Peter 64	Jude 65	Acts; 2 Peter; 2 Timothy 66/68	Hebrews 68

Outline

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- I. Introduction (1:1-2)
 - A. The author (1:1)
 - B. The recipient and blessing (1:2)
- II. Charge concerning sound doctrine (1:3-20)
 - A. The danger to sound doctrine (1:3-11)
 - B. The demonstration of sound doctrine (1:12-17)
 - C. The direction to Timothy (1:18-20)
- III. Charge concerning church order (2:1—3:16)
 - A. The worship of the church (2:1-15)
 - B. The leadership of the church (3:1-13)
 - C. The reasons for the charge to church order (3:14-16)
- IV. Charge concerning the ministry of Timothy (4:1—6:19)
 - A. Concerning doctrine (4:1-16)
 - B. Concerning relationships with various groups (5:1—6:19)
- V. Conclusion (6:20-21)
 - A. The concluding charge: what to guard and what to avoid (6:20)
 - B. The concluding word (6:21)