**Metadata**

* 1 Timothy, along with 2 Timothy, Titus & Philemon were written to individuals rather than churches.
* The term “pastoral epistle” was first used in 1726, and contains an erroneous, sectarian notion of Timothy’s work as an evangelist.
* The final three epistles Paul wrote were penned some time after his first imprisonment in Rome. Most agree that 1 Timothy was written first. Then Titus. Then, finally, shortly before his death, Paul wrote 2 Timothy.
* Conybeare and Howson give the date of 67 AD to Paul’s letter to Timothy.
* Acts ends with Paul in prison. It is impossible to establish with certainty the events in his life following his release from Roman imprisonment.
* Paul apparently spent time in Ephesus, and left Timothy there (1:3-4). He probably wrote the letter while in Macedonia, to give further instructions regarding the assignment he had given him there.
* Timothy is first mentioned when Paul came Derbe and Lystra, (Acts 16:1-2). Paul was impressed with the young man, and they became close companions and fellow workers in the gospel. (Note: He may have met him on an earlier visit, recorded in Acts 14:8-23).
* Timothy was an effective worker (Acts 16:3-5)
* Timothy had a Jewish mother and grandmother (Eunice & Lois), and a Greek father (2 Timothy 1:5; Acts 16:1).
* Timothy accompanied Paul from Lystra on his whole second journey. He worked with Paul in Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens and Corinth, (Acts 16:6 – 18:11, 1 Thessalonians 3:1-2).
* On Paul’s third journey, Timothy met him at Ephesus. He spent time among the churches of Macedonia and Achaia (Acts 19:21-22, 1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10-11). He was with Paul while Paul was imprisoned in Rome (Philippians 1:1; 2:19-23; Colossians 1:1; Philemon 1).
* He was Paul’s closest companion. (1 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2; 2:1)
* Paul trusted Timothy completely (Philippians 2:19-24)

**Concise Outline of Book**

*Taken from Marshal Patton’s commentary on Philippians*

1. **Salutation (1:1-2)**
2. **False Teachers (1:3-11)**
3. **Paul’s Unworthiness (1:12-17)**
4. **Timothy’s Charge to “War a Good Warfare” (1:18-20)**
5. **Prayer (2:1-8)**
6. **Woman’s Place (2:9-10)**
7. **Qualifications on Elders and Deacons (3:1-13)**
8. **Behavior in the House of God (3:15)**
9. **The Mystery of Godliness (3:16)**
10. **Apostasy Foretold (4:1-5)**
11. **Practical Advice (4:6-11)**
12. **Personal Responsibilities (4:12-16)**
13. **Reprimanding (5:1-2)**
14. **Care of Widows and Relatives (5:13-16)**
15. **Treatment of Elders (5:17-20)**
16. **Personal Instructions (5:21-23)**
17. **The Ultimate Judgment of God (5:24-25)**
18. **Conduct of Servants (6:1-2)**
19. **False Doctrine and Teachers (6:3-5)**
20. **Contentment (6:6-10)**
21. **Paul’s Challenge to Timothy (6:11-16)**
22. **A Charge to the Rich (6:17-19)**
23. **Keeping a Sacred Trust (6:20-21)**

**Paul’s Purpose in Writing**

* Paul was seeking to equip Timothy for the work of evangelism. His instructions included admonitions to doctrine, behavior and character.
* He warned Timothy of false teachers, gave the qualification for elders and deacons, and gave specific instructions on equipping the church.

**Chapter Synopses**

1. Paul charged Timothy with the task of warning the Ephesians to avoid false teaching, and strife caused by speculation and ignorance of law. He expressed thanks for the mercy given him by God. He called upon Timothy to “wage the good warfare, having faith and a good conscience.”
2. Paul called for prayers for all men through the mediation of Jesus Christ. He gave instructions to men (prayer and holiness), and women (modesty and submission).
3. Paul established the qualification for elders and deacons in the church. He identified the “great mystery of godliness” i.e. the gospel.
4. Paul warned of a coming apostasy, as false doctrine would be preached. He admonished Timothy to teach on the matter. He gave instructions regarding character, conduct and doctrine to be present in the young evangelist, to bring salvation to Timothy and his hearers.
5. Paul instructed Timothy in how he should treat the brethren. He enlarged upon the treatment of widows in the congregation, as well as the treatment of elders. He imparted more character related and practical instruction.
6. Paul gave instructions about the master/servant relationship. He called for the withdrawal from false teachers. He called for contentment, and the pursuit of righteousness. He called upon the rich to be humble and do good. He gave a final admonition to Timothy to faithful stewardship.

**Suggested Memory Work**

**(1:15),** *“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”*

**(1:17),** *“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”*

**(2:5),** *“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”*

**(2:8),** *“I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.”*

**(2:9-10),** *“in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.”*

**(3:1),** *“This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.”*

**(3:13),** *“For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.”*

**(3:15),** *“but if I am delayed, 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.”*

**(4:7),** *“But reject profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.”*

**(4:8),** *“For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.”*

**(4:12),** *“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”*

**(4:16),** *“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”*

**(5:16),** *“If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.”*

**(5:19),** *“Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.”*

**(6:6-8),** *“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.”*

**(6:10),** *“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”*

**(6:12),** *“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”*

**Difficult Passages**

* Is there any contextual constraint to the charge *“that they teach no other doctrine”*? (1:3)
* What did Paul mean in saying the law is made for the lawless? (1:9-10)
* Discuss Paul’s sentiments regarding Jesus’ choosing of him as an apostle, despite his insolence, and ignorance (1:12-14)
* What does the phrase*, “whom I delivered to Satan”* mean? (1:18)
* Explain the phrase *“who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time”* (2:6)
* What does *“she will be saved in childbearing”* mean? (2:15)
* Identify and explain the latter times apostasy to which Paul refers (4:1-5)
* Explain what (4:4-5) tells us about what we may eat as Christians.
* What is the gift that Timothy had received with the laying on of hands? (4:14)
* What does the phrase *“Honor widows who are really widows”* mean? (5:3)
* Explain the application of, and limits if any, of Paul’s exhortation to *“rebuke”* the sinner *“in the presence of all.”* (5:20)
* Explain the nature of men’s sins and good works, as described by Paul (5:24-25)
* Discuss the phrase *“the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil”* (6:10)
* Explain the phrase *“blessed and only Potentate”* (6:15)
* Why does Paul say that Jesus Christ *“alone has immortality”*? (6:16)
* Explain the phrase, *“the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge”* (6:20)

**Doctrinal Considerations**

* Paul’s apostleship *was “by the commandment of God”* and *“the Lord Jesus Christ”* (1:1)
* **False Doctrine is intolerable, and must be opposed and exposed by the faithful (1:3-11; 4:1-5; 6:3-5)**
* The purpose and fruit of God’s law, in contrast to error, is love (1:5)
* The Purpose of Christ’s coming was to save sinners (1:15-16)
* It is possible for a Christian to apostatize (1:18-20)
* **The prayers of holy men (2:1-8)**
* **Jesus Christ is the Mediator between God and men (2:5)**
* **The woman’s submission (2:11-15)**
* **The qualifications of bishops. Define and discuss each qualification (3:1-7)**
* **The qualifications of deacons. Define and discuss each qualification (3:8-13)**
* The church of the living God is the *“pillar and ground of the truth”* (3:15)
* The gospel stated concisely, as the *“mystery of godliness”* (3:16)
* **The duties of a *“good minister of Jesus Christ”* (4:6-11; 12-16; 5:1-3, 19-22; 6:11-16, 20-21)**
* **Individual and Congregational duties toward widows (5:3-16)**
* Women’s good works (5:9-10, 14)
* Withdrawal is required from those who do not consent to the doctrine of Christ (6:3-5)
* The proper attitudes and actions of those who are materially blessed (6:17-19)

**Practical Considerations**

* *“Fables and endless genealogies”* cause division. Faith brings *“godly edification”* (1:4)
* Paul certainly knew how to express praise to God and His Son (1:17; 6:15-16)
* Prayers should be offered to *“all who are in authority”* (2:2)
* God’s desire is for *“all men to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (2:4). We are means to share that truth!
* Women need to dress with propriety and moderation (2:9-10)
* It is possible to sear your conscience. How might this occur? (4:2)
* Bodily exercise is good in its place (4:8), but priorities must be maintained!
* Trust in the living God serves as fine motivation for maintaining steadfastness amidst persecution and labor (4:10)
* A man must care for his own (this includes a widowed mother) (5:8,16)
* Idleness leads to sins like gossip and being busybodies (5:13)
* Prejudice and partiality in dealing with others is not acceptable to God (5:21)
* Pride can stand between a believer, and his consent to wholesome words (6:3-5)
* Godliness with contentment is great gain (6:6-10)
* Spiritual success requires fleeing ungodly pursuits, and pursuing spiritual things (6:11)

**Questions to Consider**

* What does the phrase *“a true son in the faith”* mean? (1:2)
* Why does Paul refer to the teaching of error as *“idle talk”* in this context? (1:6-7)
* Why can a defense of truth be characterized as waging *“the good warfare”*? (1:18), or *“the good fight of faith”* (6:12)
* Is it legitimate today to name names when identifying error? For what purpose? (1:20)
* What are the distinctions between *“supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks”* (2:1)
* What are *“doctrines of demons”*? (4:1)
* Does culture have anything to do with the woman’s call to be submissive? (2:13-14)
* What is the difference between the elder qualification *“not given to wine”* (2:3), and the deacon qualification *“not given to much wine”* (2:8)? Can this be construed as positive authority for social drinking?
* What are *“profane and old wives’ fables”*? (4:7)
* How can one keep others from despising one’s youth? (4:12)
* Why are younger widows not to be put on the roll? Is there a difference between the care of the widow in this chapter (5), and the relief of indigent saints?
* What is the *“double honor”* for elders (5:17). Does (5:17-18) have any application to the support of preachers in general?
* Does Paul’s instructions regarding the medicinal use of alcohol justify social drinking? (5:23)
* How can we apply Paul’s directions to servants and masters in our relationships today? (6:1-2)
* What is the good confession? (6:13)

**Student Questions**

*(Use the rest of this page to prepare questions and comments for class discussion. Since this is not a “verse by verse” study, make sure that all your questions concerning the text are answered).*

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