

## **A People who Pursue a Changed Community through Jesus**

### **1 Timothy**

**Author:** Paul

**Recipient:** Timothy

**Setting:** Ephesus

**Reason:** So that you may instruct certain people not to teach false doctrine or to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies. (**vs. 3-4**)

**Timothy** (recipient)

- Acts 14:1-20 -> Paul's first missionary journey (A.D. 46-48)
- Paul returned on his second journey (A.D. 49-50) to the area and was impressed by Timothy who had a good reputation and invited him to join his team (Acts 16:1-3).
- Timothy was highly trusted by Paul (Acts 19:22, 20:4).
- He was asked to return to Thessalonica (A.D. 50), Corinth (A.D. 53-53), and Philippi (A.D. 60-62) and implement Paul's instructions (1 Thessalonians 3; 1 Corinthians 4:16-17, 16:10-11).
- Paul relied on Timothy as a coworker (Romans 16:21).
- Timothy collaborated in six of Paul's letters (1 & 2 Thessalonians, 2 Corinthians, Colossians, Philemon, and Philippians).

Timothy...

- was of the highest value to Paul. "I have no one else like him," Philippians 2:20
- was young (1 Timothy 4:12)
- was susceptible to discouragement and fear (2 Timothy 1:6-7; 1 Corinthians 16:10-11; 2 Timothy 1:8).
- dealt with frequent illness associated with his stomach ((1 Timothy 5:23).

Paul saw and treated him like a son.

- 1 Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, my true son in the faith
- 2 Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, my dearly loved son.
- 1 Corinthians 4:17 This is why I have sent Timothy to you. He is my dearly loved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you about my ways in Christ Jesus, just as I teach everywhere in every church.

Why did Paul write 1 Timothy?

1 Timothy 3:14-16 I write these things to you, hoping to come to you soon. **15** But if I should be delayed, I have written so that you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. **16** And most certainly, the mystery of godliness is great:

He was manifested in the flesh,  
vindicated in the Spirit,  
seen by angels,  
preached among the nations,  
believed on in the world,  
taken up in glory.

1. Healthy & whole churches require healthy and whole leaders.
2. Living rooted in truth (sound doctrine).
3. Everything is built on Jesus.

**Ephesus** (setting)

- Many inscriptions labeled Ephesus "the first and greatest metropolis of Asia."
- It was well known for its religious tourists who continued to come in great numbers to see the Temple of Artemis, one of the great wonders of the ancient world.
- The regional sentiment, "All Cities worship Artemis of Ephesus, and individuals hold her in honor above all gods."

**Correcting false teaching or church order?** (Reason)

What emphasis is correct? Where should the focus be?

-> The primary focus of 1 Timothy is to correct and if necessary remove the false teachers and their teaching from the church. It is wreaking havoc.

*Roman Catholic* - centralized, top-down hierarchical episcopal polity led by the Pope, bishops, and priests.

*Anglican* - episcopally led and synodically governed (combination of bishops, clergy, and laity).

*Presbyterian* - a representative system of interconnected councils rather than rule by a single individual (Session, Presbytery, Synod, General Assembly).

*Methodist* - connectionalism (episcopal supervision, shared governance through representative conferences).

*Baptist* - congregational polity (local church autonomy, lordship of Christ, priesthood of all believers)

*Charismatic* - bases leadership authority on perceived spiritual gifts rather than formal bureaucracy or tradition.

*Non-denominational* - usually shaped by elder-led or congregational form of government (autonomous polity, elder-led model, single pastor model, congregational voting).

Again, what is the reason for the writing of 1 Timothy?

**1:3-4** As I urged you when I went to Macedonia, remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach false doctrine **4** or to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies. These promote empty speculations rather than God's plan, which operates by faith.

**3:14-15** I write these things to you, hoping to come to you soon. **15** But if I should be delayed, I have written so that you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

**6:20-21** Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding irreverent and empty speech and contradictions from what is falsely called knowledge. **21** By professing it, some people have departed from the faith.

### **Why 2M, why now?**

We need to be reminded of the resilience necessary to live as Jesus followers.

How do I continue to live as a true representation of Christ and his body, the church?

We need an attitude adjustment - we cannot remain in the mental or physical space of, "I just need to survive today".

How do we change our perspective? "Jesus, teach me to thrive on earth as it is in heaven..."

- The nations are raging.
- Everyone is chasing after their own self defined wisdom.
- There are loud and convincing mixed messages everywhere.

But God...

- We have been made in the image of God
- We live our lives pursuing wholeness, reflecting the radiance of Jesus through our whole bodies as image.
- This changes us and therefore it changes our communities (starting with our church, 2M).

So we pray, listen, and act...

- We have whole, wise, maturing leaders serving out of the abundance of their spiritual giftedness.
- We take notice of people who can *help* us in our pursuit of Jesus and we draw close to them.
- We take notice of people who are eager to learn, grow, and change and we draw close to them (challenging, exhorting, praying, and setting an example).

What we believe as a people will shape how we live.

As 2M (the church) what are we known for?

Let it be known that our motivation is out of our devotion to King Jesus.

**Question:** Have you taken the time to understand the history, culture, spirituality, and people of Tucson? If so, how has this impacted the way you engage the city as follower of Jesus?

Are you in need of encouragement?

Are you in need of an attitude adjustment?

Where and from whom do you gain a change of perspective?

How are you being shaped and shaping others in the context / body of Second Mile?