



“AN OVERVIEW”

Selected Scriptures

Theme: *God has revealed how the church ought to work.*

Introduction: We live in an age of relativism, non-conformity, individualism, and confusion. Traditional church is viewed as stodgy, old fashioned, and irrelevant. The essential aspects of the modern assembly of believers place emphasis on the lighting, sound, colors, and brevity. “Worship” has been regulated to music that excites, and elements that require people to concentrate and think have been eliminated. “Sermons” have become short, life-affirming pep talks or TED (technology, entertainment, and design) talks (the presentation of an idea in 18 minutes or less). Prayer has become a “personal matter” and to be avoided in public. Singing is marginalized so that the platform performers are not compromised by someone sitting next to you. Accountability and submission to leaders is disdained as intrusive and cult-like. Doctrinal unity is reduced to generalities and a call to doctrinal conformity is seen as divisive, unnecessary, and arrogant.

The Lord knew that such deviance from His intentions for the church would be a constant concern. In His wisdom, God’s Spirit provided instruction for how the church should operate. In this book of 1 Timothy, *God has revealed how the church ought to work ...*

I. THE RATIONALE OF THE LETTER

A. The Instructions re: Conduct in the Church

1. The Apostle Paul is a hero – a man who served our Lord with unparalleled distinction, devotion, and decoration.
2. He had given himself to the Lord in ways that are rarely even imaginable by any of us.
3. He had begun his ministry of writing Scripture under the direction of God’s Holy Spirit 15 years or so before He wrote our book of study, 1 Timothy.
4. Through those years the books of the New Testament he wrote to combat false teaching, on issues like salvation, eschatology, pneumatology, and a host of other problems that affected the daily lives of the believers.
5. As he approaches the end of his life (he writes only Titus and 2 Timothy after this), he turns his attention to being proactive in laying out the expectations for the conduct and priorities of the church.
6. In this letter to his beloved “son in the faith” Timothy, who is serving as the pastor of the church at Ephesus, Paul provides instruction on how to organize and function properly as a church.
7. He addresses major issues under the direction of God’s Spirit that remain

controversies even to today.

8. What causes this is the freedom that some feel exists to deviate from the biblically prescribed function of the Church.
9. We've gone through eras when the church needs to be "redefined," reimagined, or retooled and often such attempts to revitalize the church fail to return to the basic priorities and prescriptions provided by Jesus who is the Head of the Church.
10. In explaining to Timothy why he was writing to him, Paul declares his reason clearly - **1 Timothy 3:14-15**.
11. The conduct he addresses includes:
 - a) *Avoiding fruitless discussions about strange doctrine and maintain a sincere faith in Christ - 1:3-7*
 - b) *Avidly fighting for the faith that is clearly revealed in Scripture - 1:18*
 - c) *Regular involvement in intercessory prayer - 2:1-2,8*
 - d) *Women wearing properly clothing which is proper for women making a claim to godliness - 2:9-10*
 - e) *Women remaining content with their assigned roles within the context of the church - 2:11-15.*
 - f) *Qualifying men who are to serve as Elders - 3:2, and Deacons - 3:8, and women who aspire to serve the Body - 3:11.*
 - g) *Rejecting worldly fables designed to confuse people - 4:7.*
 - h) *Participating in self-discipline - 4:7.*
 - i) *Regularly reading Scripture aloud in the assembly of believers - 4:13.*
 - j) *Paying close attention to our spiritual vitality and integrity - 4:16*
 - k) *Paying respect to older believers - 5:1-2*
 - l) *Honoring widows who qualify - 5:3*
 - m) *Honoring elders who serve the Body well in teaching - 5:17.*
 - n) *Exercising restraint and wisdom when elevating elders to positions of leadership - 5:22.*
 - o) *Maintaining a good testimony of those outside the church by respecting one's employer - 6:1-2.*
 - p) *Flee from greed and covetousness and fighting the good fight of faith - 6:11-12.*
 - q) *Persevering until the appearing of Christ - 6:14.*
 - r) *Avoid materialism - 6:17-19.*
 - s) *Guard the truth of God's Word - 6:20.*

B. The Instruction re: Concern of the Church

1. The concern of the church is likewise given to us in 1 Timothy 3:15.
2. It is the church maintaining its identity and influence as *"the household of God"* - cp. **Galatians 6:10; Ephesians 2:19; Hebrews 3:6; 1 Peter 4:17**.

THE EPISTLE OF 1 TIMOTHY

3. Forgetting who we are as a church is a constant danger – particularly as the world is constantly attempting to mute us through myriads of lures to conform to it.
4. Instead of being a Holy Temple in which the Lord God dwells through the Holy Spirit, many churches have committed suicide by seeking to be a place where worldliness is justified, sin is couched, and self-idolization is endorsed.
5. We are to understand that we exist as the place where God dwells in unique and mysterious ways in the assembly of believers – the *“church of the living God.”*
6. This assembly is to be *“the pillar and support of the truth.”*
7. This seems to be an appeal to the magnificence of the Temple of Artemis – also known as the goddess Diana (one of the 7 wonders of the Ancient World located in Ephesus) that was renown for its 127 columns (or pillars) behind which the holiness of Artemis was worshipped in a variety of decadent acts of “worship.”
8. The Church is described as “the pillar and support of the truth.”
 - a) *“the pillar” [στυλος] – a cylindrical support holding up a structure; a column.*
 - b) *“... and support” [ἐδραίωμα] – that which provides a firm base; foundation.*
9. Like a secure foundation and a settled pillar, the church is designed to hold up *“the truth”* – which is the confession that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and our Savior – cp. [v. 19](#).
10. These are not malleable things – able to shift or be altered; they are static, firm and permanent – cp. [2 Timothy 2:16-19](#).

II. THE RELIABILITY OF THE LETTER

A. The Author

1. Despite the efforts of liberals through the attacks of “higher criticism” to discredit the belief that Paul wrote this epistle, the inspired text states that it was *“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope ...”*
2. We will return to this next Sunday as we answer the question: “What is an Apostle?”
3. We date this letter around 63 or 64 AD possibly while on a trip to Spain after being released from his 1st imprisonment in Rome and before he was rearrested and executed – cp. [Romans 15:24, 28](#).
4. He was constantly concerned about the welfare of the churches he had planted and Ephesus was an especially dear church to him – having spent

about three years serving there – [Acts 20:31-38](#).

B. The Audience

1. Again, this is one of the books that was written to an individual – *“To Timothy, my true child in the faith ...”*
2. Of course, Timothy would then communicate the truth of this letter to the rest of the church he was leading in Ephesus and then by God’s intention, it would be included in the Canon of Scripture for our edification as well.
3. *“Timothy”* [Τιμοθέω] – literally means “one who honors God.”
4. He was a young man who possessed a good reputation among the saints in the region – and by the time 1 Timothy was written, he had been associated with the ministry of the Apostle Paul for nearly 15 years.
 - a) *He was led in the faith by his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois – [2 Timothy 3:15](#).*
 - b) *Timothy was likely introduced to Jesus as the Christ by Paul on the 1st Missionary journey around 47 AD – possibly in Lystra – and thus is described in our text as *“my true child in the faith.”**
 - c) *His father was a pagan – [Acts 16:1](#).*
 - d) *Timothy was essentially recruited to Paul’s ministry team during the 2nd missionary journey – cp. [Acts 16:1-3](#).*
 - e) *He was frequently a “troubleshooter” for Paul having been sent to straighten out situations in:*
 - (1) Corinth – [1 Corinthians 4:17](#);
 - (2) Thessalonica – [1 Thessalonians 3:2](#);
 - (3) Philippi – [Philippians 2:19](#);
 - (4) And now Ephesus
 - f) *Timothy was to communicate the instructions that Paul wrote in this letter to the rest of the church in Ephesus in order to establish appropriate ministry within the context of the church.*

III. THE REGULATIONS IN THE LETTER

A. Regulations in Doctrine – [1:1-20](#)

1. The Problem in Doctrine – [vv. 1-11](#)
2. The Power of Doctrine – [vv. 12-17](#)
3. The Priority of Doctrine – [vv. 18-20](#)

B. Regulations in Decorum – [2:1-3:16](#)

1. The Privilege of Prayer – [2:1-8](#)
2. The Propriety for Women – [2:9-15](#)
3. The Prescription for Leaders – [3:1-13](#)

THE EPISTLE OF 1 TIMOTHY

4. The Purpose for the Epistle - [3:14-16](#)
- C. Regulations in Discipline - [4:1-16](#)**
1. The Perversion of Truth - [vv. 1-5](#)
 2. The Perseverance in Truth - [vv. 6-16](#)
- D. Regulations in Duty - [5:1-6:2](#)**
1. The Patience with the Disobedient - [5:1-2](#)
 2. The Provision for Widows - [5:3-16](#)
 3. The Purity of Elders - [5:17-25](#)
 4. The Precepts for Slaves - [6:12-2](#)
- E. Regulations in Devotion - [6:3-21](#)**
1. The Peril of False Doctrine - [6:3-5](#)
 2. The Perversion of Wealth - [6:6-10](#)
 3. The Pursuit of Godliness - [6:11-19](#)
 4. The Protection of the Truth - [6:20-21](#)

So What?

1. **The Church belongs to Jesus Christ and must be conducted according to the instructions He has given through His Word.**
2. **The teachings of Scripture must be prized, protected, and practiced by every believer.**
3. **The Church is not ancillary to life but is designed by Jesus to be essential to the vitality of each believer's spiritual life.**
4. **Like the church at Ephesus, Grace Bible Church must be regularly reminded that ministry is about exalting Jesus Christ through His Word and intentionally helping one another follow Christ more.**

God has revealed how the church ought to work.