

Author: The Apostle Paul. Paul writes 13 Epistles; this is one of 3 that is address to an individual (Philemon/Titus).

Purpose and Background: The main purpose of this letter is to instruct Timothy of how to Pastor the church at Ephesus. It is an instructional letter of what do to, mark and avoid, and how to oversee, appoint Elders/Deacons, and how a congregation should live and act. Its instructions about worship and corrects major heresies like Gnosticism (1 Jn), Judaism (1:3-7), and False piety (4:1-5)

Challenging parts: naming false teachers, genealogies, being handed over to Satan (1:20), the extent of the atonement (2:4-6,4:10). Roles of women in church, being saved through child bearing, deacons/deaconesses. What does double honor mean for Elders who rule well? (These are all difficult passages that require detailed interpretation.

- I. **1 Tim. 1:1-2. Greeting.** 'Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope. To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.'
- a) **Christ just who is our hope.** We have hope because we have Jesus Christ. Always remind your brothers and your family of the hope of Jesus Christ. Stamp in on your mind.
 - b) **True Child in the faith.** Timothy is Paul's spiritual son. He was converted under Paul's ministry. Let's pray and work to become men who convert spiritual sons to glory.
 - c) **Grace, mercy, and peace.** 'The grace Paul is talking about here is not necessarily saving grace as that is already recognized, it is better understood as Divine Favor for his ministry efforts' (**Homer Kent, Commentary on Pastoral Epistles**)

Questions. Are there modern Apostles? Do you struggle to make Christ your main hope?

- II. **1 Tim. 1:3-11. False Doctrine at Ephesus.** 'As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith. But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions.
- But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.'
- a) **Urged you, remain on, instruct.** If we don't have urgent men, that remain on and instruct truth we begin to lose. This is a difficult fight for Timothy, but he must do it.
 - b) **Strange doctrines, mere speculations, fruitless discussions.** 'a different kind', allegorized interpretations of the OT, avoiding the plain and clear things of the text.
 - c) **The goal; love from a pure heart, good conscience, and sincere faith.** – the interpretation on this shows that sound doctrine results in these things and a pleasant atmosphere.
 - d) **Questions.** Do you believe you can desire from accurate Christian teaching and false teaching? How can you tell the difference between sound doctrine/false doctrine?

- e) **Law is good. Q.** Who is the Law intended for?
- f) **According to the Glorious Gospel? Q.** Can we present the Gospel without a knowledge of the Law?

III. 1 Tim. 1:12-17. True Doctrine of Paul. 'I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus. It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.'

- a) **Considered me faith, putting me into service** – God chose Paul for active service by His Sovereign choice.
- b) **Blasphemer, persecutor, violent aggressor** – Paul viewed himself in light of meditating on God's law. The usefulness of God's law? Meditation and prayer over our character.
- c) **Trustworthy statement – 1 of 5 in the pastor epistles.**
- d) **Attributes of God – eternal, immortal, invisible, only**

Questions. Have you ever meditated on the Ten Commandments and prayed the Ten Commandments over your own character?

IV. 1 Tim. 1:18-20. An Exhortation to Timothy. 'This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.'

- a) **fight the good fight** – by being engaged in the battle that the church is in. The battle for the Truth.
- b) **a good conscience** – a bad conscience can ruin our faith. 'Take heed to yourself' Lk. 21:34
- c) **blasphemers turned over to Satan** – Paul excommunicated the men. Q: Should people be excommunicated today?