



The Epistle of 1st TIMOTHY (“He who honors God”)

Introduction & Chapter 1

“Leadership & Warfare!”

> Introduction:

(1) History of Paul & Timothy

(2) Paul’s desire is to teach and equip Timothy be a good shepherd of God’s flock.

- Kenneth Wuest shares the following story about shepherds, “*The story goes that a traveler in the East once saw a man driving a flock of sheep. He said to the man, “I thought that eastern shepherds always led their flocks, never drove them.” Replied the man, “Oh, I am not the shepherd. I am the butcher.” All of which means that the pastor who attempts to drive God’s flock to the living of a holy life, only works havoc amongst his people but the pastor who leads the people by a Christlike life, attains his purpose.* Gentlemen, in the home are you a shepherd or a butcher?

> Theme: “Church Leadership Manual” or “Church Order”

1st and 2nd Timothy, as well as Titus are known as “Pastoral Epistles.”

The message of Christian conduct in the house of God is found 1 Timothy 3:15.

> Key Verses:

- 1 Timothy 3:14-16- *These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; 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. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.*

- 1 Timothy 6:11-13 - *But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. 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.*

> Key Chapter: Chapter 3

- Listed in chapter 3 are the qualifications of leaders in the church. One commentator writes, “Notably absent are qualities of worldly success or position. Instead, Paul enumerates character qualities demonstrating that true leadership emanates from our walk with God rather than from achievements or vocational success.”

Chapter 1 – “Leadership & Warfare”

I) The Commission (v1-2)

II) The Commandment (v3-11)

III) The Commitment (v12-20)

~ This letter is written to Timothy, the Pastor of the church in Ephesus. Let us look at the birth of the church through Paul in Acts ch. 19.

I) The Commission (v1-2)

(v1-2) The word *commandment* means a “royal commission.” Paul establishes his and Timothy’s credentials in the beginning. *Timothy, a true son in the faith.*

- *God our Savior* is mentioned, we are told in 2 Cor 5:19 - that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

- Observe the greeting of a godly leader, grace, mercy, peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. Remember that throughout this epistle we are establishing and safeguarding sound biblical doctrine.

II) The Commandment (v3-11)

(v3) The word charge means “to give strict orders from a superior officer.” Paul uses this terminology eight times in his two letters to Timothy (1 Tim. 1:3,5,18; 4:11; 5:7; 6:13, 17; 2 Tim. 4:1).

- What is the command or orders given to Timothy to give to others in the church? To maintain sound doctrine, Paul gives reference to this topic some 32 times in the three Pastoral Epistles.

(v4) Fables & endless genealogies cause disputes.

(v5) What is the purpose of the commandment?

To *love* from a pure heart, no selfish motivation or manipulation. How about a good *conscience*? *Conscience* is the inner judge teaching us right from wrong.

(v6-7) Watch out for hot air preachers (*idle talk*) and the tyrants of legalism, they exchange the grace of God for works righteousness. This was the way of the Pharisees (read Matthew ch. 23). They established a system of religious do’s and don’ts without having to change the heart.

(v8-11) Paul lists 14 sinful lifestyles condemned by the Law. The Law cannot save sinners (Gal. 2:21; 3:21-29); it can only reveal their need for a Savior.

When a sinner believes on Jesus Christ, he is freed from the curse of the Law (Gal. 3:10-14); and the righteous demands of the law are met by the indwelling Holy Spirit as a believer yields to God (Ro. 8:1-4).

III) The Commitment (v12-20)

(v12-17) Paul shares his testimony and the grace of God. Wiersbe writes about Paul, “The grace of God turned the persecutor into a preacher, and the murderer into a minister and a missionary!”

(v18) What are these prophecies? (i.e.- Acts 13:1-5; 1 Corin. 14:3)

Acts 13:1-5 - *Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as their assistant.*



- Discover your call or gifts:

Ephesians 4:11-16 - And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints

for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Romans 12:6-8 - Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

(v19-20) Some will reject the faith over time:

- Like Hymenaeus and Philetus found in 2 Timothy 2:17-19 - *And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."*

- Like Alexander found in 2 Timothy 4:14-15 - *Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.*

- Turning one over to Satan is also found in 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 - *It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles — that a man has his father's wife! And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*