

First Timothy – 6 Chapters

Title:

The First Epistle to Timothy – because it is the first of Paul's two letters written to his protégé Timothy, who was ministering to the church in Ephesus. This letter was written primarily for Timothy, but clearly also intended to be read by the entire church.

Author:

Written by Paul the apostle to the Gentiles. Paul was a strict Pharisee in Jerusalem until he had a revelation of Christ on the road to Damascus. Paul spent the rest of his life as a missionary proclaiming Jesus to Gentiles around the Mediterranean. Paul wrote 13 of the Books of the New Testament.

Occasion and Purpose:

There were false teachers and problems in the Ephesian church. The decline of this church can be traced by comparing the messages given to it in Acts, Ephesians, 1&2 Timothy and Revelation. These documents (in this historical order) show a decline into apathy and false teaching. For the first time in this series, we see in 1 & 2 Timothy that the false teachers are no longer coming from outside the congregation, but have infiltrated even into positions of leadership in the congregation. Paul tells Timothy how to lead the congregation against these false teachers: to combat false teaching with sound teaching, to combat false living with good living, and to combat bad leadership with good leadership (including the qualifications for good leaders). This epistle is also to let the church hear that Timothy had authority and to encourage Timothy himself.

Themes:

1. **Sound Teaching**– Paul encourages and insists on true and healthy teaching, which is in accord with the Gospel. This is in contrast with the diseased, false teaching which had made inroads into the church, and which Timothy was charged to combat.
2. **Avoid/Combat Heresy** – Paul encourages the church to not only avoid false and unhealthy teaching, but also to combat it whenever possible. They are not to be combative or quarrelsome, but are to stand firm for the truth. Because heresy is always cruel and hurts people (often eternally), it is actually loving to fight against it, though it may not always seem loving.
3. **Sound Leadership** – Paul describes the characteristics and practices of good leadership in the church. This was probably because some of the leaders had been infected by the false teaching and needed to be replaced. It was also necessary to promote only those leaders who were godly and would be a long term benefit to the church.
4. **Sound Care** – Paul also describes the proper care of all types of people in the church. The church must care for people in all kinds of life situations, and do so in a Gospel guided way.

Summary:

Timothy is to lead the church by standing against false teachers and false teaching. He is to teach and lead the church into healthy doctrine and practice in all areas of life. And he is to raise up godly leaders for the church. Timothy must himself be an exemplary leader in order to lead the church. And the church must follow Paul's instructions and Timothy's teaching and example in a number of practical areas.

Organization:

1:1-2 Salutation	
1:3-20 Against False Teachers	
	1:3-7 Command not to Teach False Doctrine 1:8-11 The Law is for Lawbreakers 1:12-14 God Showed Paul Mercy and Grace 1:15-17 Christ Came to be Glorified by Saving Sinners 1:18-20 Persevere in the Good fight
2:1-15 Worship & Ethics	
	2:1-7 Pray for Those in Authority 2:8-15 Men and Women Worship Appropriately
3:1-16 Leadership Qualifications	
	3:1-7 Qualifications for Overseers 3:8-13 Qualifications for Deacons 3:14-16 Living Appropriately for the Mystery of Godliness
4:1-16 Personal Instructions	
	4:1-5 False Teachers Forbid Good Things 4:6-10 Train in Godliness 4:11-16 Watch Your Life and Doctrine
5:1-6:2 Pastoral Care	
	5:1-2 Relating to Different Groups 5:3-10 Older Widows 5:11-16 Younger Widows 5:17-20 The Elders 5:21-23 Timothy's Charge 5:24-6:2 Slaves and Masters
6:3-10 Motivations – Greed	
6:11-21 Timothy's Charge	
	6:11-16 Timothy's Charge 6:17-19 Command for the Rich 6:20-21 Guard the Church

Key Verses:

1:3-5; 2:5-7; 3:1; 3:14-15; 4:6-8; 4:11-16; 6:11-12