



Investigating the Word of God

First Timothy



Gene Taylor

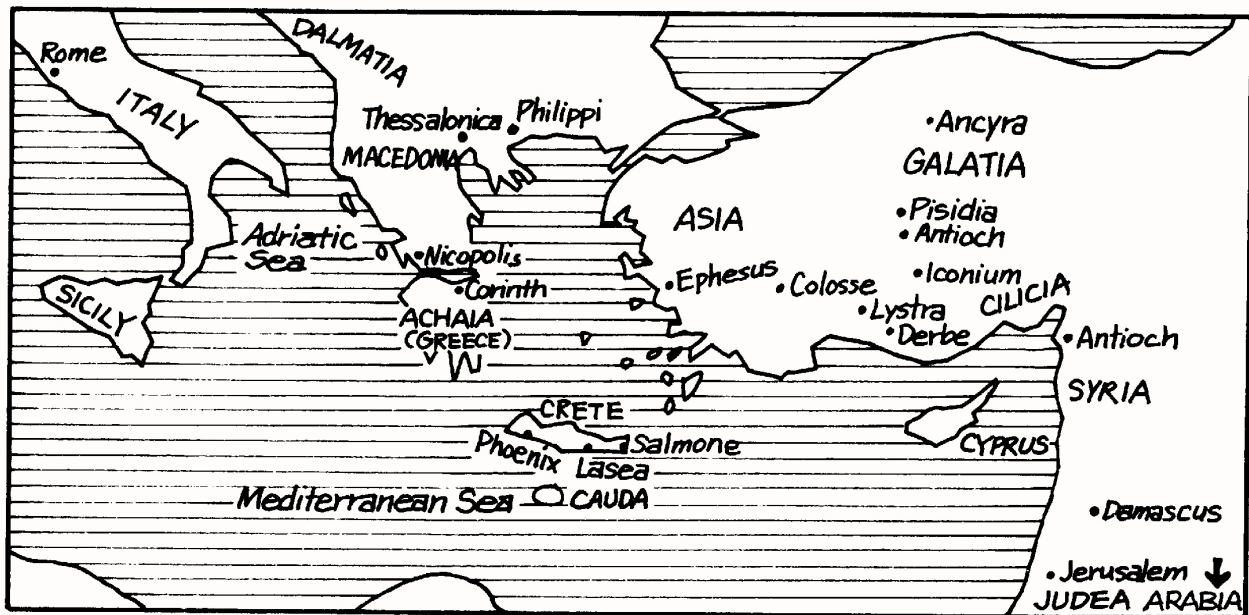
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An Introduction to First Timothy

Timothy, the Man

The name Timothy is the English form of the Greek *Timotheus*. The name originally meant “honoring God.”

Timothy was born in the city of Lystra of a Greek father and a Jewish mother. He was reared in the Jewish faith and was taught the Scriptures by his mother and grandmother from early childhood. (2 Tim. 3:15; 1:5)



The apostle Paul discovered him at Lystra (Acts 16:1-3) He joined Paul in his labors and shared in them throughout the rest of his life. He was with Paul in prison in Rome during his first imprisonment for his name appears in the heading of Colossians (1:1) and Philemon (v. 1), epistles of the apostle Paul which he wrote during that time. After Paul’s release, he evidently traveled with him as far as Ephesus and was left there to minister to the needs of the church. At the end of Paul’s life, he joined him again in Rome. (2 Tim. 4:11-21)

“He was evidently a trustworthy, if not forceful character. He gave the impression of immaturity, although he must have been about 30 years of age when Paul left him at Ephesus. The indication is that he was timid (2 Tim. 1:6-7), and that he had some difficulty with his health (1 Tim. 5:23).” (Roy Cogdill, *The New Testament Book-by-Book*, p. 102)

The Author of the Book

“From the most ancient times the two epistles to Timothy have been accepted by the church as written by Paul.” (William S. Deal, *Baker’s Pictorial Introduction to the Bible*, pp. 375-376)

“All three books (The epistles to Timothy and Titus - GT) begin with the claim that the writer was Paul the apostle (I Tim. 1:1; cf. 2:7; II Tim. 1:1; Titus 1:1). The author’s analysis of his

spiritual past agrees with the Book of Acts (I Tim. 1:11-15). His identification of Timothy and Titus as his ‘sons’ in the faith is definitely a Pauline designation (I Tim. 1:2, 18; II Tim. 1:2; 2:1; Titus 1:4).” (Robert G. Gromacki, *New Testament Survey*, p. 291)

The Date of the Book

“This letter was written after the close of the recorded history of the work of Paul in the Book of Acts. Luke closes the record of Acts with Paul still in prison at Rome, but leaves quite uncertain what happened to Paul in Rome. He tells us that Paul lived there two whole years in a state of semi-captivity, preaching the gospel without hindrance (Acts 28:30-31).” (Cogdill, 100)

“After Paul was acquitted by the Emperor and released from his first Roman imprisonment (A.D. 61), he resumed his missionary activities, accompanied by Timothy, Titus, Luke, and possibly some others. Contrary to his earlier thinking, he was able to return to Ephesus; there he left Timothy in charge while he moved on to Macedonia (I Tim. 1:3; cf. Acts 20:25, 37-38). Paul expected to rejoin Timothy at Ephesus but he was not sure about the time of his arrival (3:14; 4:13). Thinking that he might be delayed longer than he had expected, Paul thus wrote to Timothy to encourage and to instruct him in his many tasks...The book therefore was written from Macedonia about A.D. 62, although some have suggested either A.D. 63 or 64.” (Gromacki, 295)

Why This Book Was Written

“The *occasion* for writing this letter is clearly stated in First Timothy 3:14-15, ‘that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God.’ We need to remember that Timothy was at Ephesus; that the whole of Asia Minor was threatened with the various false doctrines of Gnosticism; that because of this, apostasy was impending, as Paul had warned the elders themselves at Ephesus in his farewell speech at Miletus (Acts 20:18-32). It is understandable, therefore, that Timothy, the young preacher who had been left under the responsibility of meeting this false doctrine and saving the Church from apostasy, needed further specific instruction and encouragement in order to accomplish his task. This is Paul’s reason for writing this Letter, which we are studying. The letter touches upon many things, all of which have to do with the manner in which ‘men are to conduct themselves in the house of God.’” (Cogdill, 102)

The Theme of the Book

“The underlying theme of the entire First Letter to Timothy is a warning against the failure of faith. These warnings are found in a number of passages.” (Cogdill, 102) (See 1:3, 4, 5, 7, 18-20; 4:1; 5:8, 11; 6:3-5, 10, 21)

“The second underlying thought pervading the First Letter to Timothy concerns the Church (the house of God - 3:15), and how men ought to conduct themselves in its work.” (Cogdill, 103) (See 2:1-8, 9-10, 11-15; 3:1-13; 4:1-5, 6; 5:3-16, 17-18, 19-20; 6:10, 17)

“A third general theme of the book especially applicable to all who preach the Gospel is found in First Timothy 4:16: ‘Take heed to thyself and to thy teaching.’ (Cogdill, 103) (See 4:6-16; 5:1ff.; 6:11ff)

First Timothy Chapter One

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 15

“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”

Key People

Paul

Timothy

Hymenaeus

Alexander

Key Places

Macedonia

Ephesus

Key Words

Fables

Genealogies

Edification

Conscience

Insubordinate

Profane

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. Who wrote this book?
2. To whom is this book written?
3. Why did Paul leave Timothy in Ephesus?
4. What, according to verse five, is the purpose of the commandment?
5. According to verse eight, when is the law good?
6. For whom, according to verse nine, is the law not made?
7. What did Paul say he had formerly been?
8. Why did Jesus come into the world?
9. What did Paul charge Timothy to wage?
10. Why were Hymenaeus and Alexander delivered by Paul to Satan?

Matching

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Paul | A. Should teach no other doctrine. |
| _____ 2. Timothy | B. Needed to learn not to blaspheme. |
| _____ 3. Jesus | C. A true son in the faith. |
| _____ 4. Some believers in Ephesus | D. Put Paul into the ministry. |
| _____ 5. Hymenaeus and Alexander | E. An apostle of Jesus Christ. |

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. A Christian should give heed to fables and genealogies. |
| T | F | 2. The law is made for the lawless and insubordinate. |
| T | F | 3. Paul had obtained mercy because he had acted ignorantly in unbelief. |
| T | F | 4. Paul thought he was chief of sinners. |
| T | F | 5. Hymenaeus and Alexander had been delivered to Macedonia. |

Discussion Question

How can a Christian “suffer shipwreck” of his faith?

First Timothy Chapter Two

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verses 3-4
“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Key People

Adam

Eve

Key Words

Supplications

Intercessions

Mediator

Ransom

Propriety

Submission

Authority

Transgression

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What is to be made for all men?
2. Why does Paul want prayers made “for kings and all who are in authority?”
3. What is God’s desire for all men?
4. Who is the one Mediator between God and men?
5. What did Christ Jesus give Himself to be?
6. What was Paul’s desire for men everywhere?
7. With what are women to adorn themselves?
8. How is a woman to learn?
9. Over whom is a woman not to have authority?
10. According to verse 15, in what is a woman to continue?

Matching

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| _____ 1. Kings | A. Was deceived. |
| _____ 2. Christ Jesus | B. Formed first. |
| _____ 3. Women | C. Christians are to pray for them. |
| _____ 4. Adam | D. The one Mediator between God and men. |
| _____ 5. Eve | E. Are to profess godliness with good works. |

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. Christians should pray to lead a quiet and peaceable life. |
| T | F | 2. God desires all men to come to the knowledge of the truth. |
| T | F | 3. Paul gave himself as a ransom for all. |
| T | F | 4. All men everywhere should pray with wrath and disputing. |
| T | F | 5. A woman will not be saved in childbearing. |

Discussion Question

What do you think is “modest apparel?” What do think is immodest apparel?

First Timothy Chapter Three

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 15

“...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.”

Key Words

Bishop

Novice

Deacon

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. If a man desires the position of a bishop, what does he desire?
2. How many wives may a bishop have?
3. What must a bishop do in relation to his own house and his children?
4. Why should a bishop not be a novice?
5. According to verses eight, nine, ten and twelve, what are the qualifications of those who would serve as deacons?
6. What, according to verse 11, must the wives of the deacons be?
7. What do those who serve well as deacons obtain?
8. According to verse 15, why did Paul write to Timothy?
9. What is “the house of God?”
10. What, according to verse 16, is great?

Fill in the Blank

In the blank before each item, fill in “bishop” if it is a qualification for a man to serve as a bishop of a local congregation. Fill in “deacon” if it is a qualification for a man to serve as a deacon in a local congregation. (A helpful hint: Some qualifications apply to both.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Blameless | _____ 14. Not given to much wine |
| _____ 2. Husband of one wife | _____ 15. Not quarrelsome |
| _____ 3. Temperate | _____ 16. Holding the mystery of faith in a good conscience |
| _____ 4. Reverent | _____ 17. Not covetous |
| _____ 5. Sober-minded | _____ 18. Rules his own house well |
| _____ 6. Of good behavior | _____ 19. Has his children in submission |
| _____ 7. Not double-tongued | _____ 20. Not a novice |
| _____ 8. Hospitable | _____ 21. Rules his children and house well |
| _____ 9. Able to teach | _____ 22. A good testimony among those who are outside. |
| _____ 10. Not given to wine | |
| _____ 11. Not violent | |
| _____ 12. Not greedy for money | |
| _____ 13. Gentle | |

Discussion Question

How is the church “the pillar and the ground of the truth?”

First Timothy Chapter Four

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 12

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

Key Words

Demons

Hypocrisy

Seared

Abstain

Sanctified

Profane

Exhortation

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. What does the Spirit say will happen in latter times?
2. To what will those who depart from the faith give heed?
3. How should the foods God created be received?
4. How, according to verse six, could Timothy be a good minister?
5. What was Timothy to reject?
6. What is profitable for all things?
7. What did Paul tell Timothy to let no one despise?
8. In what was Timothy to be an example?
9. To what was Timothy to give attention?
10. To what was Timothy to give heed? Why?

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. Those who depart from the faith will give heed to the doctrines of deacons. |
| T | F | 2. God created foods to be received with thanksgiving. |
| T | F | 3. Every creature of God is not good. |
| T | F | 4. Timothy needed to carefully follow good doctrine. |
| T | F | 5. Old wives' fables are to be rejected. |
| T | F | 6. Bodily exercise is profitable for all things. |
| T | F | 7. Timothy should not have cared if people despised his youth. That was their problem, not his. |
| T | F | 8. Timothy was not to neglect the gift that was in him. |
| T | F | 9. Timothy's spiritual progress was to be evident to all. |
| T | F | 10. If Timothy gave heed to himself and to the doctrine, he would save himself and those who heard him. |

Discussion Question

How can a person's conscience be "seared with a hot iron?"

First Timothy Chapter Five

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 8

“But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

Key Words

Piety

Pleasure

Gossips

Busybodies

Relieve

Prejudice

Partiality

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. Who was Timothy not to rebuke?
2. What was Timothy to exhort the following as?
 - a. Older man.
 - b. Younger men
 - c. Older women.
 - d. Younger women.
3. If a widow has children or grandchildren, what are they to do for her?
4. What is the condition of a woman who lives in pleasure?
5. If one does not provide for his own household, what has he done? Who is he worse than?
6. What are the qualifications for a widow to be taken into the number to be supported by the church?
7. Why are younger widows to be refused?
8. What is Paul's desire for younger widows?
9. What is a believing man or woman who has widows to do?
10. Who is the church charged to relieve?
11. Who is to be counted worthy of double honor?
12. What are the requirements for receiving an accusation against an elder?
13. According to verse 21, with what is nothing to be done?
14. In what was Timothy not to share?
15. According to verse 22, what was Timothy to keep?

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. Children and/or grandchildren need to show piety at home and repay their parents. |
| T | F | 2. If anyone does not provide for his own, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. |
| T | F | 3. The laborer is not worthy of his wages. |
| T | F | 4. It is proper to drink a lot of wine in order to feel better. |
| T | F | 5. Some men's sins are clearly evident. |

Discussion Question

What are some ways that a person can share in other people's sins?

First Timothy Chapter Six

Keys to This Chapter

Key Passage: Verse 6

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain.”

Key People

Pontius Pilate

Key Words

Yoke

Reviling

Wranglings

Corrupt

Destitute

Contentment

Perdition

Potentate

Haughty

Babblings

Key Lesson

Questions on the Text

1. How are bondservants to view their masters?
2. To what is one to consent?
3. What do men of corrupt minds suppose that godliness is?
4. What is great gain?
5. With what should a Christian be content?
6. What happens to those who desire to be rich?
7. What is a root of all kinds of evil?
8. What has happened to those who had a love of money?
9. What is the man of God to pursue?
10. What was Timothy to fight?
11. On what was Timothy to lay hold?
12. What was Timothy to command those who are rich?
13. According to verse 18, what should the rich do?
14. What was Timothy to guard?
15. What was Timothy to avoid?

True - False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | 1. Ungodliness with contentment is great gain. |
| T | F | 2. The love of money is a root of virtue. |
| T | F | 3. Command those who are rich to be haughty. |
| T | F | 4. The rich are not to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God. |
| T | F | 5. Be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share. |

Discussion Question

How can a person who is rich still be a good Christian?

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