**Introduction to the Book of 1 Timothy**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**1 Timothy 1:1-4**

**Wednesday Evening**

**June 4, 2025**

**The Purpose**

To give encouragement and instructions to Timothy a young leader in Christ.

**Author**

Paul the Apostle

**Audience**

Timothy, young Church leaders and all believers everywhere

**Date Written**

Approximately A. D. 64 from Rome or Macedonia, probably just prior to Paul’s final imprisonment in Rome.

**Setting**

Timothy was one of Paul’s closet companions. Paul had sent Timothy to the Church at Ephesus to counter the false teaching that had fully arisen there. Timothy Probably served for a time as a leader in the Church of Ephesus. Paul Hoped to visit Timothy but in the meantime, he wrote this letter to give Timothy practical advice about the ministry.

**Key Verse**

**1 Timothy 3:16**

“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”

**Key People**

Timothy’s mother Eunice

**Introduction**

WITHOUT trying, we model our values. Parents in particular demonstrate to their children what they consider important and valuable.

“Like father, like son” is not just a well-worn clich‚; it is a truth repeated in our homes. And experience proves that children often follow the life-styles of their parents, repeating their successes and mistakes.

Timothy is a prime example of one who was influenced by godly relatives. His mother, Eunice, and grandmother Lois were Jewish believers who helped shape his life and promote his spiritual growth.

The first “second generation” Christian mentioned in the New Testament, Timothy became Paul’s protégé and pastor of the church at Ephesus.

As a young minister, Timothy faced all sorts of pressures, conflicts, and challenges from the church and his surrounding culture.

To counsel and encourage Timothy, Paul sent this very personal letter.

Paul wrote 1 Timothy in about A.D. 64, probably just prior to his final Roman imprisonment.

Because he had appealed to Caesar, Paul was sent as a prisoner to Rome.

Most scholars believe that Paul was released in about A.D. 62 (possibly because the “statute of limitations” had expired), and that during the next few years he was able to travel.

During this time, he wrote 1 Timothy and Titus. Soon, however, Emperor Nero began his campaign to eliminate Christianity.

It is believed that during this time Paul was imprisoned again and eventually executed. During this second Roman imprisonment, Paul wrote 2 Timothy.

Titus and the two letters to Timothy comprise what are called the “Pastoral Letters.”

Paul’s first letter to Timothy affirms their relationship. Paul begins his fatherly advice, warning Timothy about false teachers and urging him to hold on to his faith in Christ .

Next, Paul considers public worship, emphasizing the importance of prayer and order in church meetings.

This leads to a discussion of the qualifications of church leaders—elders and deacons. Here Paul lists specific criteria for each office.Paul speaks again about false teachers, telling Timothy how to recognize them and respond to them.

Next, he gives practical advice on pastoral care to the young and old, widows, elders, and slaves.

Paul concludes by exhorting Timothy to guard his motives, to stand firm in his faith, to live above reproach, and to minister faithfully.

First Timothy holds many lessons. If you are a church leader, take note of Paul’s relationship with this young disciple—his careful counsel and guidance.

Measure yourself against the qualifications that Paul gives for overseers and deacons. If you are young in the faith, follow the example of godly Christian leaders like Timothy, who imitated Paul’s life.

If you are a parent, remind yourself of the profound effect a Christian home can have on family members.

A faithful mother and grandmother led Timothy to Christ, and Timothy’s ministry helped change the world.

**1 Timothy 1:1-4**

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope, 2 To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia--remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, 4 nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.

**1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope,**

Saints, Apostle comes from the Greek word apostolos, meaning “one who is sent.” Paul was an apostle appointed personally by Christ Jesus himself.

His commission to this position came directly from God on the road to Damascus.

**1 Corinthians 9:1**

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?

**1 Corinthians 15:8-9**

8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

The title apostle was basically reserved for certain followers of Christ who had accompanied Jesus and had seen the risen Lord.

Paul presented this important credential of apostleship in most of his letters as a foundation for his instructions. Paul expected to be heard because he represented Jesus Christ.

Paul calls God our Savior. Paul used the phrase “our Savior” six times in the letters to Timothy and Titus.

**1 Timothy 1:1**

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope,

**1 Timothy 2:3**

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior…

**1 Timothy 4:10**

For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

**Titus 1:3**

but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior…

**Titus 2:10**

not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

**Titus 3:4**

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared…

Paul may have used this particular Greek word, soter, because, at the time, the cruel emperor Nero applied it to himself.

The apostle would not have hesitated to repudiate Nero’s claim. Paul reminded his readers who the true Savior was.

Paul calls Christ Jesus our hope. Our hope rests in Jesus Christ. He is the embodiment of our faith, the basis for our eternal life.

When we place our hope in Christ, we are not pacified with vague “maybes,” rather we are given certainties.

We “hope” for what we already know is ours.

**2 To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Saints, Paul addressed many of his letters to churches across the Roman Empire, and these letters were meant to be read aloud to all the believers.

This letter, although written to Timothy, was also meant to be read to the entire congregation in the church at Ephesus (and beyond).

First Timothy has been called the first of the “Pastoral” Epistles (1 and 2 Timothy and Titus).

All of Paul’s letters express pastoral concerns, but these three relate specifically to local church issues. Paul and Timothy had developed a special bond, like father and son.

Paul probably led Timothy to the Lord, so he was a true child in the faith.

**1 Corinthians 4:17**

That is why I have sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which is exactly what I teach everywhere in every church.

**Philippians 2:22**

But you know Timothy’s proven worth, that as a child with his father he has served with me to advance the gospel.

Paul used grace and peace as a standard greeting in all of his letters. However, it is only in his letters to Timothy that he used mercy.

“Mercy” carries with it the Old Testament picture of God’s loving-kindness. God’s mercy helps us day by day.

Paul knew that Timothy was facing a difficult situation in Ephesus, so he added the word mercy to reassure Timothy of God’s protection and guidance.

By using the phrase, God our Father and Christ Jesus our Lord, Paul pointed to Jesus as a full person of the Godhead.

Both God the Father and Christ the Lord are coequal in providing the resources of grace, mercy, and peace.

Paul recognized the full deity of Jesus.

**3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia--remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine,**

Saints, Paul first visited Ephesus on his second missionary journey.

**Acts 18:19-21**

19 And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. 20 When they asked him to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent, 21 but took leave of them, saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing." And he sailed from Ephesus.

Later, on his third missionary journey, he stayed there for almost three years.

Ephesus (along with Rome, Corinth, Antioch, and Alexandria) was a major city in the Roman Empire.

Ephesus was a center for the commerce, politics, and religions of Asia Minor, and the location of the temple dedicated to the goddess Artemis.

Paul left Timothy in the troubled Ephesian church while he traveled on to Macedonia, and then wrote to his young protégé from there.Paul gave Timothy a difficult task.

It seems that the rather timid disciple may have been reluctant, for Paul gave strong commands and loving encouragement to young Timothy.

He was to be undaunted and unintimidated by those teachers (who were probably older men, who were teaching wrong doctrine; that is, doctrine other than the teaching of Jesus, the apostles, and the Old Testament.

The English word doctrine came to mean the central truths, or principles, of a philosophy or religion.

Paul used the term in writing to Timothy to refer to the unchanging truths of the gospel.

No one was at liberty to change that doctrine.

**4 nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.**

Saints,

**What were these myths and spiritual pedigrees?**

There are two possibilities:

**1. The church at Ephesus may have been troubled by the same type of heresy that threatened the church at Colosse—the teaching that to be acceptable to God, a person had to discover a certain hidden knowledge and had to worship angels.**

**Colossians 2:8**

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

**Colossians 2:18**

Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind…

**2. Thinking that it would aid in their salvation, some Ephesians constructed mythical stories based on Old Testament history or genealogies.**

Perhaps they placed too much emphasis on Jewish writings such as the Book of Jubilees.

These myths and pedigrees only served to promote arguments and lead to discussion about ideas that did not come from Scripture but from the minds of the false teachers.

**Colossians 2:8**

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, which are based on human tradition and the spiritual forces of the world rather than on Christ.

**1 Timothy 6:20**

O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you. Avoid irreverent, empty chatter and the opposing arguments of so-called “knowledge,”

**2 Timothy 2:23**

But reject foolish and ignorant speculation, for you know that it breeds quarreling.

**Ephesians 4:14**

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed about by the waves and carried around by every wind of teaching and by the clever cunning of men in their deceitful scheming.

This, in turn, did not help people live a life of faith in God because it took valuable time away from teaching the truth of Scripture and spreading the gospel.

Therefore, Paul urged Timothy to remain in Ephesus, instead of traveling on with him, in order to stifle the false teachers, who were motivated by their own interests rather than Christ’s.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**