

Timothy (Meaning; Venerating God or Reverencing God)

Timothy was Paul's convert and esteemed companion who eventually became the Bishop over the churches in Ephesus. Timothy's father was Gentile (Greek) (Acts 16: 1-3) and his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois were both Jewish. His mother and grandmother piously instructed him in the Scriptures as a child (2 Timothy 1:5, 3:15).

Timothy was probably living at Lystra when Paul made his first visit to that city (Acts 16:1), and was converted by Paul (Acts 14:6; 2 Timothy 1:5). Prophecy was given that Timothy was called to the ministry (1 Timothy 1:18; 4:14) and it was Paul's desire to have Timothy as his companion or "son in the faith" (1 Timothy 1:2). Paul circumcised Timothy (Acts 16:3), and Timothy was set apart as an evangelist by the laying on of hands (1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:5).

Timothy and Paul traveled extensively together - - They along with Silvanus and probably Luke journeyed to Philippi (Acts 16:12)...Timothy's devotion to Paul was evident (Phil. 2:19-22) and Paul's esteem and great confidence in Timothy's ministry was evident! Timothy was left behind to watch over the infant church. He appeared at Berea where he remained with Silas after Paul's departure (Acts 17:14), but eventually joined Paul at Athens. He went to Thessalonica (1 Thess. 3:2), ministering with his gifts of comforting and teaching - - and from Thessalonica he went to Corinth. His name is united with Paul's in the opening words of both letters written from Corinth to the Thessalonians (1Thess. 1:1 & 2 Thess. 1:1). Timothy was also with Paul when Paul wrote the Epistles to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 1:1), Philippians (Phil. 1:1; 2:19), Colossians (Col. 1:1), and Philemon (Philemon 1). Timothy and Paul, after Paul's release from prison, revisited Ephesus (1 Tim 1:3). However, Paul journeyed to Macedonia, and left Timothy in charge at Ephesus.

Timothy, as a young pastor, had major responsibilities such as addressing the practices of heresy and licentiousness, exercising rule over older Believers (1 Tim 4:12), ordaining elders (bishops) and deacons (3:1-13), and avoiding vain disputes with heretics.

****Heresy: Promoting philosophies, doctrines, beliefs which oppose (contrary) the Church**

****Licentiousness: Ill regard for accepted standards; Morally undisciplined**

The First Epistle to Timothy.

This was the first of three pastoral letters written by the Apostle Paul (approximately 62 A.D.) to two of his young converts (1 & 2 Timothy & Titus) who had accompanied him on numerous missionary journeys. They had been established as pastors of churches, and these epistles were directed to them to provide instructions for the orderly management of the organized congregations. These letters not only have a special message to young ministers, but also to the Church.

1 Timothy 3:15 highlights the central purpose of the epistle, "...That thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground (support) of the truth." As the apostolic period approached its conclusion, local churches increased in number - - therefore there was a need to provide instruction to address questions and issues in the churches concerning order, beliefs/principles, and discipline.

The Apostle Paul had four main goals in this first epistle to Timothy:

- 1) To encourage Timothy to oppose false teaching (1:3-7, 18-20; 6:3-5, 20-21)**
- 2) To provide Timothy with written credentials authorized by himself (1:3-4)**
- 3) To instruct Timothy in the management of ecclesiastical (church) affairs (3:14-15)**
- 4) To exhort Timothy to diligence in the performance of his pastoral duties (4:6 – 6:2)**

Outline

- I. Salutation (1:1-2)**
- II. Paul's Charge To Timothy (1:3-20)**
 - A. Charge to silence dangerous, false teachers (1:3-11)**
 - B. Thanksgiving for the True Grace of God (1:12-17)**
 - C. Reinstatement of the Charge (1:18-20)**
- III. Regulations For the Assembly (2:1-15 & 3:1-16)**
 - A. Guidelines for prayer (2:1-8)**
 - B. Guidelines for women (2:9-15)**
 - C. Qualifications of elders and deacons (3:1-13)**
 - D. Nature and mission of the Church (3:14-16)**
- IV. Warning Against Apostasy and False Doctrine (4:1-16)**
 - A. Threats from doctrinal defection (4:1-5)**
 - B. Timothy's response to false teaching (4:6-10)**
 - C. Timothy's responsibilities as a Minister (4:11-16)**
- V. Guidelines for Relationships in the Assembly (5:1 – 6:2)**
 - A. Treatment of various age groups / widows (5:1-16)**
 - B. Treatment of the elders (5:17-25)**
 - C. Relationships between slaves and masters (6:1-2)**
- VI. Priority of Godliness (6:3-16)**
 - A. Ungodly character of false teachers (6:3-5)**
 - B. Value of Godliness and contentment (6:6-10)**
 - C. Pursuit of Godliness (6:11-16)**
- VII. Final Commands (6:17-21)**
 - A. Charge to the wealthy (6:17-19)**
 - B. Charge to Timothy (6:20-21)**

Verse 1

Paul first identifies himself as "an apostle of Jesus Christ" - - An apostle (Gk. apostolos, a "delegate") is one who is sent with a special message or commission. He is stating that he had been Divinely "appointed" by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself (Acts 9). Paul emphasizes also that he did not chose the ministry by himself as a means of livelihood, and neither had he been ordained to ministry by men. His "call" was from God to preach, teach, and suffer. God is the Saviour of men - - God sent His Only Begotten Son to accomplish the work of Redemption, and gives eternal life to all who accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour by faith. Jesus Christ died on the Cross and completed the work necessary for God The Father to save unrighteous, ungodly sinners. Jesus is our only Hope in receiving eternal life and experiencing God's Glory forever!

Verse 2

The epistle is addressed to Timothy and Paul refers to him as “my own son in the faith” - Paul and Timothy loved his each other and they were companions in the Christian faith. Timothy viewed Paul as his “father in the Gospel” and Paul viewed Timothy as his “son in the Gospel.” Paul, as a father, was training his “son” Timothy in the Ministry.

Grace: God’s Favor & all Divine Resources needed for Christian life & service

Mercy: God’s undeserved Compassion and Protection (for those needy & prone to fail)

Peace: Inner tranquility one experiences when sincerely & completely trusting in Christ

***Only in the “Pastoral Epistles” (Timothy & Titus) does Paul address them with “GRACE, MERCY, & PEACE” (Blessings of God) - - Is Paul suggesting that pastors need a little more grace, mercy, & peace than others? Do you believe so?**

Verse 3

Paul reminds Timothy why he charged him to stay at Ephesus: **STOP** those heretics and false teachers (in the assembly) who are attempting to “poison” the Church of Christ with their filthy, perverted, corrupted, and toxic thoughts, beliefs, philosophies, words, actions, doctrines, etc. which oppose and pervert the Gospel of Jesus Christ - - the Christian Faith (Galatians 1:6-7). Two doctrines that were being promoted during this time were Gnosticism and legalism (Salvation comes by the keeping of the Law and not by faith in Jesus Christ - - Promoted by the Jewish Christians). Paul **COMMANDED** that “no other doctrine” by taught but the Gospel of Jesus Christ! We do not compromise holiness, righteous, and godliness to accommodate sin and the foolish, carnal, perverted philosophies of men!

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof (reprimand), for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” - 2 Timothy 3:16-17

“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time (at any time) by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” - 2 Peter 1:20-21

Verse 4

Paul exhorted Timothy to not waste time in grappling with those heretics about religious fables, myths and genealogies which fictionalized accounts of various Old Testament characters which were common in Jewish literature and features of Gnosticism. These false teachers embellished (exaggerated) these “stories” with the intention to diminish the Truth and Power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Such debates and disputes provoke questionings and “seed” doubts in the hearts of the people - - Godly edification, which comes by faith in God, is forsaken and spiritual destruction is the result. Paul exhorted Timothy to devote his energy to the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, edify the souls of men, and inspire faith in Jesus Christ and not doubt. In addition, arguing, fighting, grappling, contending, etc. with heretics does not display the “Character of Christ” - - that behavior demotes us to a carnal level that has an “unpleasant savor” that is not representative of Christ: “Dead flies will cause even a bottle of perfume to stink! Yes, an ounce of foolishness can outweigh a pound of wisdom and honor” (Ecclesiastes 10:1 NLT)

Verse 5

Paul's instruction to Timothy provided the standard of comparison by which the false teachers could be judged. The goal of sound teaching is love (charity), and having impact upon one's heart and conscience to produce unfeigned (sincere) faith. In addition, love flowing from a pure heart, good conscience, and sincere faith are directly connected to the preaching of the Gospel of the Grace of God.

Love: Love of God, Household of Faith, All Men

Pure Heart: Sanctified walk with the Lord

Good Conscience: Thoughts, beliefs, actions void of offense toward God and man

Unfeigned Faith: Not hypocritical, not false, and without a "mask"

False teachings/teachers are completely incapable of demonstrating these Godly characteristics

Verse 6

Paul highlighted that these heretics abandoned a pure heart, good conscience, sincere faith, and love - - they aimed for their own ungodly goals (carnal desires and will) and missed the mark. They strayed away from the Truth of God and focused on their empty, useless, valueless, and fruitless discussions (vain jangling). Their words were "theologically defective" and "morally ineffective." They did not inspire or compel men to believe and have faith in Christ, but they brought shame upon the Gospel! Let us, with these powerful Godly characteristics, implant "seeds" of the Gospel into the hearts of men with the hope that the "fruit of Salvation" will be produced - - To the Glory of God!

Verse 7

These heretics and false teachers wanted the "glamour" of being teachers of the Law of Moses - - Paul emphasized they didn't even understand what they were they were "teaching!" They failed to understand the Purpose for which the Law was given their own selves! These men were "Judiazers (or legalists) - - they aimed to mix Judaism (the Law) and Christianity (Grace) maintaining that faith in Jesus Christ was not sufficient for Salvation, but one must be circumcised and adhere to the Law of Moses. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." (Galatians 2:20-21)

"But that no man is justified by the Law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith." (Galatians 3:11)

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8)

Salvation comes by God's Grace in connection to our faith in Jesus Christ - - The Law condemns to death all who fail to keep its precepts, and anyone under the Law is under the curse. Since no man is able to obey the Law perfectly, he is condemned to death - - but thanks be to God for Jesus Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law for He was made a curse for us: "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree" (Galatians 3:13).

Paul had no regard for these heretics and considered them dangerous, toxic fools: “If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to the wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud (a fool), knowing nothing, but *doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputing of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain (worldly) is godliness: from such withdraw thyself” (1 Timothy 6:3-5)

***Dotage: A condition of mental deterioration; foolish or excessive fondness**

Verse 8

Paul wanted there to be no doubts regarding the “holiness” and “goodness” of the Law: “Therefore the Law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good” (Romans 7:12). The issue was that these ignorant, foolish, toxic false teachers were “using” God’s Holy Law unlawfully by distorting the Law’s Purpose and presenting the Law as a means of salvation. The Law was not given by God as a means to Salvation (Acts 13:39; Romans 3:20, Galatians 2:16 & 3:11) - - In teaching and preaching the Law “lawfully”, Man recognizes, acknowledges, and is convicted of his sin. The Law is intended to open Man’s eyes to see his disobedience (sin) against God, and then turn (repent) to God for forgiveness:

“Therefore by the deeds of the Law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the Law is the knowledge of sin” (Romans 3:20). “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the Law: for by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified” (Galatians 2:16). “If My people which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Verses 9 & 10 (CEB)

‘We understand this: the Law isn’t established for a righteous person but for people who live without laws and without obeying any authority. They are the ungodly and sinners. They are people who are not spiritual, and nothing is sacred to them. They kill their fathers and mothers, and murder others. They are people who are sexually unfaithful (immoral), and people who have intercourse with the same sex (homosexuality). They are kidnappers (slave traders), liars individuals who give false testimonies in court, and those who do anything that is opposed to sound (wholesome) teaching.’ Laws are directly applicable to those who have no regard for them and do not consider them important, nor worthy of honoring. God held / holds all men accountable regarding His Law (Commandments) & Grace (Accepting His Son Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior): Romans 2:12-16 (NLT), “God will punish the Gentiles when they sin, even though they never had God’s written law. And he will punish the Jews when they sin, for they do have the law. For it is not merely knowing the law brings God’s approval. Those who obey the law will be declared right in God’s sight. Even when Gentiles, who do not have God’s written law, instinctively follow what the law says, they show in their hearts they know right from wrong. They demonstrate that God’s Law is written within them, for their own consciences either accuse them or tell them they are doing what is right. The day will come when God, by Jesus Christ, will judge everyone’s secret life.”

Verse 11 (CEB)

“Sound teaching agrees with the glorious Gospel, of the blessed God, that has been trusted to me.” God’s Word (Gospel) is Holy, True, Righteous, Pure, Glorious, Gracious, Love, Wisdom, Correction, Instruction, Strength, Salvation, etc. The Gospel reveals God’s Glory and how He as the God of Grace, Mercy, and Love provided what His Holiness demanded - - through the Lord Jesus Christ shed Blood, our sins are “washed away” and our eternal souls will not be separated from God but will dwell with God forever. It is God’s Gospel that was committed to Paul’s trust and is committed to our trust -- centering around Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour – compelling men (through sound teaching, love, pure heart, good conscience, unfeigned faith) to accept His Blood sacrifice for their Salvation. “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (1 Peter 4:10) - - The Lord requires us to be good stewards of His Word (The Gospel) and His Message of Salvation. We are to present and “handle” God’s Gospel with humility, sincerity, reverence, and piety!

Gnosticism

One of the most prominent, toxic, and dangerous heresies that warred against the Christian faith, was the doctrine of Gnosticism. Paul invested much time in battling these heretics, false teachers who would permeate the Christian church and present their own “philosophies” or “spin” on the gospel. At the Colossian church, this demonic heresy regarding God and spirituality had begun to take root and began infecting the church. This blasphemous doctrine replaced faith with intellect by teaching:

- 1) Special knowledge was needed for a soul to transition from the physical realm into the spiritual realm. Gnostics believed they were more intellectually advanced than Christians**
- 2) Salvation could only be obtained through special knowledge**
- 3) All matter was evil and only spiritual (non-physical) entities were good (God)**
- 4) Since matter (physical) was evil, and God (Spiritual) is good, God did not create the world (matter) - - An angel or secondary god created the universe. God is rejected as The Creator**
- 5) Since our bodies are evil (matter) and our soul (spirit) is good, then the deeds we do in our bodies cannot bring contamination or damnation to our eternal souls**
- 6) Since bodies are matter (evil) and spirits are good, the Lord Jesus Christ never had a body - - The Truth that Jesus Christ, the Creator, came into the flesh and became a Man is rejected. Without a Body, the Deity of Christ is rejected - - His Incarnation, Life as the Son of Man (Ministry), Crucifixion, Atonement, Resurrection, and Second Coming are all discarded as fables or tales**

A philosophy that existed that paralleled Gnosticism was Docetism - - It promoted the demonic lie that Jesus was not “manifested” in the flesh. In 1 John 4:1-3, a false teacher named Cerinthus was promoting the lie that Jesus and the Christ were two separate beings, one was physical and the other was spiritual. In addition, there was no Incarnation because the Spiritual Christ descended on the Physical Jesus at His Baptism, but then departed the Body before the Crucifixion.

