

*From the Garden to Glory*

# First Timothy

**Author:** Paul the Apostle

**Written to:** Timothy

**Timeline:** c. 64 - 66 A.D.

**Theme:** Care of the Church

**Purpose of writing:** Paul instructed Timothy on how he ought to conduct himself in the house of God (3:14-15).

**Introduction:**

The letters of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus are known as the Pastoral Epistles. In this letter, Paul encouraged Timothy, a young pastor and son in the faith, to be an example to the believers, and to model what it is to live a godly Christian life. Paul gave Timothy instructions on how to govern the church and appoint leadership. He encouraged Timothy in his call as a pastor and urged him to continue on and fight the good fight of faith.

As we begin our study of the book of 1 Timothy consider the following questions and write your responses:

1. Read Acts 16:1-5, 2 Timothy 1:5-7 and 3:14-15. What do you learn about Timothy from these verses?
2. The last letters written by the Apostle Paul were 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus. In these Pastoral Epistles Paul gave practical instructions concerning church administration and organization. Why is it important for those of us who are not pastors or leaders in ministry to study such letters?

3. Timothy's name means *one who honors God*. What does it mean to *honor God*? List three ways that you can be *a woman who honors God*.

## **Fight the Good Fight**

Read 1 Timothy 1:1-20

1. In verses 3-4 Paul told Timothy to *remain* in Ephesus. Why did he tell him to do so? In what situation or relationship is the Lord telling you to *remain* at this point in your life? How are you responding?
2. Paul described Jesus Christ in verse 17. Look up each of the following words in a dictionary and write a definition. Take some time today to meditate on these descriptions of the Lord. Write down anything that He shows you about Himself.
  - King
  - Eternal
  - Immortal
  - Invisible
  - Wise
3. In verse 18 Paul charged or commanded Timothy to *wage the good warfare*. The Christian life is filled with many blessings but it is also one of constant warfare. Every believer is a *Christian soldier* engaged in a battle against the devil and his demons. Make a list of character traits and abilities that are essential for a good soldier. In what way(s) are you a good soldier? What is one thing you could do to become an even better one?

## **Pray for All Men**

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-15

**1.** Look at verses 1-4. Consider the following questions and write your answers.

- What four areas of prayer did Paul mention?
  
- For whom were the Ephesians to pray?
  
- Ask the Lord to impress upon your heart at least one person from each of these groups for whom He wants you to be praying. Write that person's name and pray for him/her right now.
  
- What do you learn about the Lord's heart for the lost from these verses?

**2.** In verse 8 Paul described the manner in which the people were to pray. What did he say? How can these instructions influence or impact your prayer life?

**3.** Paul gave instructions for the women in verses 9-12. What were these instructions? How can you apply each of these in your own life today?

## **Requirements for Ministry**

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-16

1. In verses 2-3 Paul listed several qualities that were necessary for a bishop. (Note: The words *bishop*, *pastor*, *overseer* and *elder* were used interchangeably in the New Testament and identified those men who were responsible for the leadership of the church.) Using a dictionary or your own knowledge write what each of these words means.

- blameless
- the husband of one wife
- temperate
- sober-minded
- of good behavior
- hospitable
- able to teach
- not given to wine
- not violent
- not greedy for money
- gentle
- not quarrelsome
- not covetous

In verses 4-6 Paul listed three more requirements but with these he also gave a reason for each. What are the requirements and why did Paul say they were important?

2. Paul listed the requirements for deacons in verses 8-13. The word *deacon* originally meant *to serve*; deacons served in practical ways under the leadership of the elders. What do you learn about the requirements of deacons from these verses?
3. Look back over the requirements for those who served in the church, select two qualifications, one instruction and one prohibition. Explain why this qualification was (and is today) important for those in positions of leadership.

## **Godly Disciplines**

Read 1 Timothy 4:1-16

1. Read verses 1-5. From whom had Paul received these instructions? What did Paul say would happen in the *latter times*? (Note: The latter times began with the Lord's resurrection and will continue until He returns.) How do you see each of these problems manifested in the United States today?
2. Read verses 7-8. What did Paul tell Timothy about exercise? Describe what happens to your body when you exercise. What are the benefits? How can you *exercise yourself toward godliness*?
3. Look at verses 12-16 concentrating on verse 14. Paul told Timothy not to neglect his spiritual gift. What is/are your spiritual gift(s)? Are you giving yourself entirely to it/them? If not, in what way are you neglecting the gift that is in you? What can you do to change this?

## **A Minister's Tasks**

Read 1 Timothy 5:1-25

1. In verse 1 Paul told Timothy that older men (this probably means those of advanced age rather than those who held the position of an elder in the church) were to be exhorted rather than rebuked. Look up the words *exhort* and *rebuke* in a dictionary. How does exhortation differ from rebuke? Why would exhortation be superior to rebuke in this situation?
  
2. Read verses 3-16 and answer the following questions about widows.
  - What does it mean to *honor widows who are really widows*?
  
  - Who is to provide for the needs of the widow?
  
  - How did Paul differentiate widows who are to be *taken into the number* from those who are to be *refused*?
  
3. In verses 17-22 Paul instructed Timothy about the treatment of elders. Summarize his instructions. Write out verse 19. What would you do/say if someone came to you with an accusation against one of the leaders in the church?

## **Contentment Through Godly Teaching**

Read 1 Timothy 6:1-21

1. How did Paul describe false teachers in verses 3-5? What was their motivation? Based on this description, how do *you* make sure that what you listen to is godly teaching?

2. Read verses 6-10. Write out verse 6. What were the conditions for contentment that Paul listed in verse 8? What are the conditions for contentment in your own life? How can the love of money and greediness cause believers to *stray from the faith*?
  
3. In verse 12 Paul exhorted Timothy to *fight the good fight of faith*. The Greek word for *fight* described the extreme effort, discipline and concentration required to win in both athletic competitions and military endeavors. What battle are you fighting today? In what way(s) does this battle require effort, discipline and concentration?

## **Summary**

As you conclude your study of the book of 1 Timothy consider the following questions and write your answer:

1. What is the most significant thing that you have learned from your study about the Lord, His character, or His attributes? How does this encourage you? Take a few moments to thank and praise the Lord for the things that you learned about Him.
  
2. What is the most important lesson or new insight that you have learned from your study of this book? How can you apply this lesson in your life this week?