

1 Timothy

AUTHOR: The Apostle Paul

THEME: "How the Pastor Should Organize and Operate the Church"

INTRODUCTION: Four of Paul's epistles were written to individuals. Three of them—the two epistles to Timothy and the epistle to Titus—are called "pastoral epistles" because of the nature of the instructions relative to the training and the governing of the church. Hence, Timothy, who was a pastor, is receiving a letter from the Apostle Paul concerning the proper way to do the work of the Lord as pastor of a local church.

I. OUTLINE OF I TIMOTHY.

1. Teaching concerning false teachers. I Timothy 1. Paul presents Timothy's position concerning defending his church from false teachers and their perverted use of the law. He tells of the need for the pastor to fight them.
2. Instructions concerning worship and prayer. I Timothy 2. Here Paul gives instructions concerning the Gospel, the place of men and women in the public services, the importance of prayer, and instruction concerning public prayer, etc.
3. Qualifications of pastors and deacons. I Timothy 3.
4. False doctrines that have crept into the church and how to deal with them. In I Timothy 4, notice especially verses 1-5 and see how similar these false doctrines are to those found even in our area.
5. The pastor's duties concerning guiding his people away from false doctrine. I Timothy 5.
6. Conclusion and exhortation. I Timothy 6.

II. TIMOTHY WAS ONE OF PAUL'S CONVERTS. In I Timothy 1:2 notice the words, "my own son in the faith," and in I Timothy 1:18, "son Timothy." Timothy was not Paul's son according to the flesh, but he was his spiritual son in that Paul had won him to Jesus Christ. There are those who believe that Timothy was converted much like Paul was converted. When Paul was a young man, Stephen was stoned. Paul held the coats of those who stoned Stephen. No doubt he watched the face of Stephen and heard the words he spoke as he died. The Bible seems to teach that Paul never got away from this. It pricked him constantly until one day he received Stephen's Christ. While Paul was in the city of Lystra, he also was stoned to death. It was here, no doubt, that he was caught up into the third Heaven. God brought him back to life, but a young man had watched him die just as Paul had watched Stephen die.

This young man was Timothy. It is speculation but certainly probably that Timothy was converted because he couldn't get away from the beautiful death of Paul, just as Paul could not get away from the beautiful death of Stephen.

III. TIMOTHY CAME FROM A MIXED MARRIAGE. His father was a Greek; his mother, no doubt, was Jewish. Perhaps this is the reason why Timothy was converted after he had become a young man. His mother, no doubt, was a good woman, but she had been guilty of a mixed marriage. (Teacher, stress here the importance of Christian young people marrying only Christians. Also, stress the importance of Christian young people dating only Christians.)

IV. TIMOTHY'S FATHER PROBABLY DIED DURING HIS SON'S INFANCY. His father's name is unknown, though he was a Greek and Gentile by descent. Read Acts 16:1, 3. The absence of any personal allusion to the father in Acts of the Apostles implies that he must have died or disappeared during the son's infancy. The care of the boy thus was turned upon his mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois. (Teacher, no doubt you have some children in your class whose fathers are dead, or children who are, for some reason, being reared by their mothers. Encourage them that they can become something for God. There may be members of your adult class who are mothers having to rear children alone. Encourage the mothers that they can succeed in rearing their children in the service of God. Use illustrations of this.)

V. TIMOTHY WAS TAUGHT THE SCRIPTURES FROM A CHILD. Read II Timothy 1:5. His godly grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice, taught him the Word of God. (Stress the importance of a good grandmother in a child's life) Timothy had a Jewish education and was grounded in the Old Testament Scriptures which made him ready for the Gospel of Christ when he heard it through the lips of Paul.

VI. TIMOTHY WAS SINCERE. Notice the words "unfeigned faith" in II Timothy 1:5. This means "non-hypocritical faith." There was no "put-on" in Timothy. He was a sincere servant of God.

VII. TIMOTHY WAS A LOYAL FRIEND. See Philippians 2:22. Timothy was a companion of the Apostle Paul on many of his missionary journeys. He was one of his most constant companions, along with Silas and Luke. (Teacher, stress the importance of friendship and of being loyal to our friends and caring for our friends. This does not mean just "care" like "love," but a "caring" like "providing for the needs of our friends.")

VIII. TIMOTHY HAD SPECIAL GIFTS FOR COMFORTING AND TEACHING. Paul used him to ground the churches and to stabilize the Christians in the faith.

IX. TIMOTHY WAS A PASTOR. He was pastor of the church at Ephesus, which was perhaps the biggest of all the churches in Asia Minor. (Teacher, stress the importance of the pastor in the life of a child, or, for that matter, in the life of anyone.)

X. TIMOTHY DIED A MARTYR'S DEATH. He ended up giving his life for the Lord Jesus Christ.

XI. TIMOTHY NEEDED THE APOSTLE PAUL. Some think that he continued pastoring the church at Ephesus so long that it was he who was the "angel" of the church of Ephesus to whom the message of Revelation 2:1-7 was addressed. If this be true, Timothy was pastor of the church that had lost its first love. The church had drifted away from soul winning. Could it be that Timothy needed the Apostle Paul? Timothy was a wonderful man, a faithful friend and a loyal follower, but when he was apart from a strong leader, he found himself in need of help. Here again is the importance of our need of each other and especially of our need of spiritual leadership from God's man. Though Timothy was a pastor, he needed a pastor to keep him zealous for Christ. The Apostle Paul wrote him in one place and said, "...stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands." In other words, he was saying, "Rekindle the flame that was placed in thee when I laid my hands on you when I ordained you." See II Timothy 1:6. Timothy's flame perhaps had dwindled, and so the Holy Spirit led John to write a letter beseeching Timothy and the church at Ephesus to get back to their first works and their first love. Read Revelation 2:4.